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(A Literary Supplement will be published with our issue of 25 April.)

NOTES.

BULAWAYO, as we are now ordered by the Chartered Company to spell it, can hardly be said to be any longer in danger; for the inhabitants have sufficient food and ammunition to last them two months, and their laager is stated to be impregnable. Unless stopped on the way, Lord Grey ought to reach Bulawayo in three or four weeks' time, when it is to be hoped Mr. Rhodes may have recovered from that fever which has unfavourably affected the price of shares. But what is the cause of this Matabele rising? We have it from men who have lived amongst them that the Matabele will not turn on their masters unless worried. Two statements have been made in the newspapers which are worthy of Mr. Chamberlain's attention. We are told that the whites are in the habit of brutally ill-treating their "boys," and that they have confiscated 45 per cent. of the cattle of the natives. These things, if true, would be quite enough to account for the rising. But are they true? And do they meet with the approval of the Secretary of State?

It has always been believed that it was Mr. Chamberlain who kept Mr. Courtney out of the present Government, and when it was a question of the Speakership, it was notorious that Mr. Courtney's candidature received no support from the Liberal-Unionist leader. And yet it would have been better for the Government if Mr. Chamberlain had left out one of his own gang, say Mr. Powell Williams or Mr. Jesse Collings, and given something to Mr. Courtney. Probably the difficulty was that Mr. Courtney would take nothing under Cabinet rank, and in the Cabinet Mr. Courtney could not sit, for the simple but unanswerable reason given by one of Lady Holland's tame wits when told "to make room" at table for an unexpected guest. "Room cannot be made, my lady, because it does not exist."

Mr. Courtney's attacks upon the Government are far more damaging than those of the Opposition leaders, because Mr. Courtney thoroughly understands the trick of posing before the country as a God-sent arbitrator between the two parties, to whose petty strife he is wholly superior. Having cursed Mr. Chamberlain at Bodmin, he blesses him the next day at Liskeard, which makes people say what a judicially minded man is Mr. Courtenay! With much of Mr. Courtenay's vigorous attack upon the policy of the Soudan expedition we agree, because we do not see how, even if the Soudan is reconquered, it can be governed without, as Gordon said, "an inordinate expenditure of men and

money." But Mr. Courtney appears to have made a mistake in citing Gordon as an authority for abandoning the Soudan; for, as a "Liberal-Unionist" points out in the "Times," Gordon wrote to Sir Evelyn Baring from Khartoum, in 1884:—"If Egypt is to be quiet Mahdi must be smashed up." Having denounced Mr. Chamberlain's Egyptian policy as "a vain, false, and foolish ideal," Mr. Courtney beslavered "our great Secretary" with praise for his Transvaal policy, and made the just remark that it is absurd to expect President Kruger to treat with us as if the Jameson raid had not happened.

The foreign situation remains disquietingly complicated and obscure. It is noted that M. de Staal, alone among the diplomats stationed in London, has taken no Easter Holiday, but has paid numerous visits instead to the Foreign Office. With Lord Salisbury in the South of France, and Mr. Curzon roaming about the Continent, it is not clear who the Russian Ambassador found to do the honours at Downing Street, but it is natural to assume that his business there was of importance. We have, indeed, just now, a good deal of very weighty and pressing business with Russia, and the suggestion that the permanent officials at the Foreign Office are at least as competent to deal with as their Parliamentary superiors is not reassuring.

It is in the Far East that the true danger-point lies. The new year has been so prodigal of sensations and alarms in all quarters of the globe, that we tend to lose sight of this fact; but it remains a fact none the less, that Russia occupies a position to-day on the Pacific which we have always said she should not be allowed to occupy without first fighting us. A year ago, either the establishment of a Russian Protectorate over Korea or a Russian occupation of Port Arthur would have been treated by practically everybody in England as a justification for war. When the "Times," much less than a year ago, printed its celebrated despatch from Hong-Kong, outlining a secret cession of Manchuria said to have been wrung by Russia from China, and declared that if this was true England would be compelled to intervene, if necessary by force, no dissent was expressed in any responsible quarter. It was taken for granted by all parties that British interests and policy in the Far East rendered our assent to such a thing impossible, and Russian diplomacy, in consequence, hastened to declare that the alleged secret treaty was a malicious invention. Similarly we said that Korea must remain independent, and the Russians gave profuse assurances on that head as well. Now the King of Korea has his lodgings in the Russian Legation at Seoul, and it is not denied that Port Arthur and the peninsula commanding the Pe-chi-li waters are to be Russian this spring. Yet so far as any one knows we have done nothing.

Our inaction in the Far East, while so much was being done which we stood pledged to resist, *was* to be explained by the fact that Russia had secured as her allies in these enterprises both Germany and France, and thus presented an array of force against which we could not throw ourselves. We say "*was*," because it seems doubtful whether that alliance still exists. Great Britain has started on a career of expansion in another part of the world, which gives, and is intended to give, direct provocation to France, and through her to Russia, and here we find Germany supporting us instead of the St. Petersburg-Paris combination. Now great nations cannot maintain alliances on these limited liability principles. It is impossible for Germany to back up Russia and France against us in the Pacific and to help us against France and Russia on the Nile for any length of time. The impulse toward a combination to cut the throat of Mr. Facing-both-ways would be irresistible. Therefore we are forced to suspect that Germany has really drawn out of the Partition-of-China partnership, or is at least free to listen to proposals from Downing Street for a working arrangement of quite a different character. As we remarked on 21 March, when the Dongola expedition was first commented upon, if an understanding has been arrived at with Germany, it should bear its first fruits in the Far East.

The Russians have called the Abyssinians their co-religionists for so many years now, that very possibly they have come to believe that it is true. The capacity of the Slavonic mind for crediting its own illusions, when convenience points that way, has always been remarkable. Twenty years ago the Russian army of the Caucasus was furnishing up its weapons for a descent upon Asia Minor, and at that time no good Russian was troubled with any doubt as to the entire orthodoxy of the suffering Armenian Christians who were to be rescued from the terrible Turk. Now the wind blows from the other quarter, and every Russian knows that the Armenians are all schismatics, whose creed has no affinities whatever with the Greek Church. It is rather awkward, however, or would be if Russian editors were not above such trifles, that just when the Armenian is being discarded as a heretic, the Abyssinian should be picked up and made much of as a theological brother, because as a matter of fact what passes for Christianity in the empire of the Negus is a mere barbaric reflection of the Armenian Church. It may be said, indeed, that where the tenets of the two differ, the Armenian beliefs are more in accord with the Greek, and the Abyssinian doctrines, or dim legends of doctrines, go off in the other direction. There is a touch of irony in the further fact that what the Abyssinian religion does not owe to the Armenian, Coptic, and Syrian Churches, all schismatic from the Russian point of view, it borrows direct from the Jews.

In truth it is only a few years ago since the Negus Menelik sent a strong remonstrance to the late Tsar against the persecutions under which the Jews were suffering in Russia, in which he spoke of himself as the descendant of Solomon, and inferentially as the head and protector of the Semitic races. It is known that he delights in honouring Hebrews at his Court, and it is not at all clear that he does not think of himself as a Jew quite as much as a Christian. He claims to be the custodian of the genuine Ark of the Covenant, which was miraculously transported to Abyssinia from Palestine; the priests of his Church dance before it in their ritual as did the Levites; the Jewish Sabbath and the rite of circumcision are preserved in this strange Christian Church. Of course the meaning of it all is that the Alexandria from which the Abyssinian Church had its origin in the fourth century was a highly Semitized community, and that, when the Mohammedan conquest of Nubia cut Abyssinia off from the rest of the Christian world, these Jewish customs, which elsewhere disappeared later on under Western influences, perpetuated themselves in this isolated out-of-the-way corner.

Our assumption last week that M. Bourgeois would easily hold his own in the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday was more than justified by the event. He

won, indeed, the most conspicuous triumphs of his Ministerial career, and was able to exhibit to his enemies a compact and enthusiastic majority of ninety. The effect of this unlooked-for success was visible next day upon both the Premier and the hostile Senate. Their brief interview was marked by a sinister malignancy of tone which recalled the spirit with which the Mountain used to meet the Constituent Assembly in the days just before the Terror. The Chamber having endorsed M. Bourgeois, and adjourned till May 19, the Senate again formally denounced him, and agreed to reassemble a month earlier, in order to begin the battle afresh while the Radical Deputies were absent. It is understood that when the Senate resumes its sessions, on the 21st, it will promptly throw out the Madagascar credits, which the Chamber voted just before it adjourned. As the money will be needed on the 30th, a deadlock will thus be created. The idea of the Senators is that M. Bourgeois, finding the supplies for the new Madagascar administration refused him, will be compelled to resign, and they are smoothing his path in this direction by announcing that to any other Prime Minister they will concede the credits at once.

M. Bourgeois, however, is not of the resigning sort. More than one alternative is open to him. It is not impossible to provide by other means the funds needed on the 30th, and to thus bridge over the interval of three weeks until the Chamber meets and reaffirms with emphasis its sanction of the grant. Another way would be to summon the Chamber back in extra session, as soon as the Senate had rejected the credits, and it is this which the Premier is said to favour. But beyond this he has two trump cards—the elections on 3 May of Municipal Councils, which bodies in turn will choose successors to one-third of the present Senators, and are expected to replace scores of Moderates and Reactionaries by thoroughgoing Radicals—and the Russian alliance. This latter card is one which everybody in French politics strives to have it believed that he holds, but there seems little doubt that it is really in the Premier's hand. He can say that Russia is growing impatient and angry at these incessant attempts of the Senate to weaken the authority of the Government, and demands that they shall cease, and there will be no one to dispute his words. Still less, we imagine, will there be found any one willing to brave the outburst of popular rage which would storm about the men suspected of weakening Russia's interest in the French alliance.

Madagascar claims attention at the moment, not only as the probable pretext for a renewal of the conflict between the two branches of the French Parliament, but as a possible item of importance in our own foreign policy. If it be true, as we suppose it is true, that the door is definitely closed between us and the Republic, then it would be gratuitous folly for our Foreign Office to miss the chance of scoring a point which Madagascar offers. By the form of annexation which M. Bourgeois chose to impose upon the island, the commercial treaty rights of other nations were coolly abrogated. The retiring Foreign Minister, M. Hanotaux, in vain protested that international guarantees were not torn up in this summary fashion. The incoming Radicals decided that they would take the risk, and as it turned out their course seemed warranted. Only Great Britain and the United States lodged protests against the usurpation, and as the international situation stood then, these seemed of no importance. But much has changed since then, and to-day there are obvious reasons why this timely reservation of our rights in Madagascar may be used to notable advantage in the diplomatic game. Not its least attractive feature is the opening it affords for a joint action with the United States. The two great English-speaking Powers do not find so many opportunities for co-operation that any of them can be lightly passed by.

It is edifying to note how restive the colonies become when Great Britain proposes any legislation which may have the effect of keeping any of their produce out of the mother country, though they all gaily practise

protection against the manufactures of that mother country. Whatever may be the real object of Mr. Long's Diseases of Animals Bill, one of its certain effects will be to keep Canadian store cattle out of this country. As Mr. Montague, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, says, the Canadian Government are "naturally much disappointed" that Mr. Long's Bill is being proceeded with. Yet the Dominion of Canada has a tariff of duties against British goods, which is intended to protect Canadian manufactures. These are the cases which Mr. Chamberlain's proposal of Free Trade within the Empire is meant to meet. It is unreasonable of the colonies to ask us to put duties on foreign as distinguished from colonial produce, while they continue to levy duties on British goods. But Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Canada Club banquet has set all men thinking, and it has pleased no section of politicians more than the Agricultural party in the House of Commons, which is said to number 230, and which is being recruited from both sides, as is proved by the recent addition to its ranks of Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Courtenay Warner, and Mr. W. R. Davies.

The alarm of the teachers at the prospect of being put under the maternal wing of the county councils supplies the comic element to what promises to be a bitter and dreary discussion. What, they are not trusted, after all, these local democracies, these patent inventions of Mr. Ritchie! We could, indeed, understand a panic falling upon the London School Board had it been proposed to hand them over to the London County Council; but even Sir John Gorst, bold reformer as he is, shrank from the crime of stirring up an uncivil war between these two great rate-spending Powers, and special arrangements are to be made for an education authority in London. Clearly, however, the National Union of Teachers will have none of your town or county councils prying into their affairs, controlling their accounts, and doling out to them the wholly inadequate pittance from the State. Hardly had the glowing periods of Mr. Macnamara died upon the ear, when the National Union fell upon the Bill with feminine fury.

By a majority of over 5,000 the National Union of Teachers has condemned the Statutory Education Committees of the local authorities, and proposed in their stead education authorities elected *ad hoc*. The reason of this is plain. When the town and county councils are elected a great variety of local issues is before the electors, of which in future education will only be one, and probably a subordinate one. Consequently in such elections the teachers will not have much influence. But in the election of education authorities the teachers, with their organization and influence over the parents, would be supreme, or at all events predominant. What we might expect in the way of taxation from education authorities elected by universal suffrage under the auspices of the teachers may be gathered from the speeches at Brighton, all of which are against any limit being placed upon central or local expenditure, and in favour of a large portion of the money being spent on teachers' salaries. One teacher admitted, with refreshing candour, that "it would require £1,000,000 to bring the salaries of the Voluntary school teachers up to the standard of those in the Board schools; and they might do as they liked about politicians and theology, but he was going for the million as hard as he could." In fact, after reading of the conference in the Dome, one is impelled to slightly vary the line in the "Northern Farmer," "Salary, salary, salary—that's what I 'ears 'em saay."

The *mot d'ordre* has evidently been issued by the Radical wire-pullers that the Education Bill is to be opposed on the ground that it will destroy the Board schools. And so it will in time, because the new Committees will be found to be quite as efficient as the School Boards and cheaper, as there will be no elections to pay for. In the large towns the School Boards will survive, but in country districts they will be gradually supplanted by Committees. It is encouraging to

learn that all the teachers endorse Sir John Gorst's view that the religious difficulty is platform-made, and purely political. If so, why not leave the Cowper-Temple clause alone? We can see that the new clause might cause friction. In rural districts, where there is only a Church school and no resident Nonconformist minister, the privilege of "a reasonable number" of Dissenting parents demanding special facilities for special religious instruction would be useless. In the towns, on the other hand, the request of a certain number of parents to allow a Church of England clergyman to hold classes in the Board school would surely excite irritation amongst the Board. If the Church party in the House of Commons would allow him, Sir John Gorst would probably not be sorry to drop this new religious apple of discord.

Sir Charles Dilke's cold analysis of the fatuous "Home-Rule-All-Round" programme, which official Liberals declared at the last Radical meeting that they were prepared to spring upon the party when the proper time came, will probably render further discussion of the foolish thing unnecessary. If the project itself is preposterous, the notion that it could be privately avowed, but publicly kept a secret until the eve of the next general election, is still more wildly absurd. Sir Charles's allusion to those of his party who "are content that a scratch majority should be obtained in 1901," in order that they may "hold for a few brief months office, with its patronage, but without power," is unhappily less obscure than it would have been four or five years ago. As the Liberal party is at present officered and led, it really stands for nothing in our politics but an occasional Dervish-like raid, designed only to seize a few peerages, baronetcies, Treasury certificates for salaries, &c., for the benefit of its head men, before it is beaten off again into the desert of Opposition.

Sir Charles Dilke has declared himself against "Home Rule All Round," in the sense of five Parliaments for the various portions of the United Kingdom. But he has pronounced in favour of a modified form of Home Rule All Round. This can only mean that Ireland is not to have a Parliament; and that increased powers must be given to the county councils. This may be sound sense, but it is not exactly "a cry" to rouse the country at the election of 1901. But on one point Sir Charles Dilke speaks like a statesman. The Radical party must produce some definite plan of Home Rule before the next General Election. Mr. Gladstone could go to the country without showing his hand, but no one else can repeat the feat. Even if the Radicals got a majority at the polls, unless they had a distinct mandate from the constituencies, the Lords would again throw out their Home Rule Bill.

We hope that with the reopening of Parliament there will be no further delay in letting us have the Report of the Irish Financial Relations Commission. Of course, the death of Mr. Childers after his draft report was actually in type was a severe set-back; but many weeks have now passed and nothing has yet been done to fill his place. Lord Farrer was spoken of; but, with all respect to his experience and abilities, he is a bit of a pedant, and his only possible rival, The O'Connor Don, will probably be chosen as soon as the Commission meets, and as he is known to be in general agreement with Mr. Childers's views, which are also those of the majority of the Commission, the final stages ought not to be long delayed. When the history of the late Servile War in Ireland comes to be written, probably its severest condemnation will be that it remorselessly hounded from public life men of The O'Connor Don type, men who by race and religion are in warm sympathy with all that is best in Ireland, but who were marked for destruction simply because they would not go with the hired gang of wreckers who called themselves the organizers of the Land League. The Financial Relations Commission and the attitudes of men like Mr. Horace Plunkett and The O'Connor Don go to show that the real Irishmen will before long once more have their opening.

AFTER THE RECESS.

THE weather has been so lovely in the country during the past week that it was not surprising that literally half of the Unionist party failed to turn up on Thursday in the House of Commons. Civil Service Estimates do not promise much excitement, and, with the Irish Land Bill down for Monday, even the Government Whips were probably prepared for a deficit of over two hundred unpaired members. Luckily for the Government, the Opposition were equally unwilling to recommence their labours. And in what spirit did the remnant of the Unionist party reassemble at Westminster? So high an authority as Mr. Leonard Courtney tells us that the Unionist party is profoundly divided on the Soudan question, and that, if only the division-lists were examined, they would discover many rifts within the lute. To judge from a recent speech in the House and a letter published the other day in the "Times," Mr. George Whiteley, the senior member for Stockport, is quite prepared to lead an attack upon the Government for favouring the agricultural interest at the expense of the towns. But if Mr. Whiteley strains at the Diseased Animals Bill, will he swallow the Agricultural Rates Bill, which Mr. Long is shortly about to introduce? When it comes to asking the general body of taxpayers to defray half the farmers' rates, there may well come a cleavage between town and country. Then there is the question of the Transvaal, on which Unionist members are by no means united, some siding with Dr. Jameson and the Uitlanders, and some with President Kruger and the Boers. In answer to Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett's long-expected question on Thursday, Mr. Chamberlain drily replied that he had "no information" to give the House as to whether President Kruger would or would not accept the invitation to come to London. But Mr. Chamberlain is in possession of a certain fact about Dr. Jameson's raid which President Kruger is anxious should not be made public. Indeed, all men who know this fact, and are anxious for the future peace of South Africa, are desirous that it should not be published. It is Mr. Chamberlain's trump card, and President Kruger knows Mr. Chamberlain holds it. In our judgment, therefore, President Kruger will come to London. He will concede, not all, but a large portion of the Uitlanders' demands; and he will then play the magnanimous again by suggesting to Mr. Chamberlain that the prosecution of Dr. Jameson should not be gone on with. Thus peace will be preserved, and the truth lost. But these are prophecies of the future, and for the present the surface of the Parliamentary waters is only just ruffled by the discussion of Estimates.

There are few more urgent administrative questions than the definition of the limits within which Civil servants may organize and agitate. There are now sixty members for London, and within the constituency of each one of them (except the City) there live and vote many thousands of persons in the employment of the public. Perhaps the two most numerous—and, therefore, politically powerful—classes of Government servants are the Lower Division clerks and the Post Office employés. For the last ten or twelve years the grievances, real or fictitious, of these two classes of Government servants have been systematically brought before the Metropolitan members, not always unaccompanied by vague threats. We are sorry to say that many of the London members have been weak enough to attend meetings of Lower Division clerks and Post Office employés, at which the conduct of the higher officials has been denounced, and a shortening of hours combined with an increase of pay fervently advocated. It is obvious that this kind of agitation is subversive of all discipline in the public service, where the subordinates must be taught that they have to deal with their official superiors, and not with members of Parliament willing to buy votes. The Americans were so keenly alive to this danger of pressure from the Civil Service that the Constitution of the United States resorts to the simple but drastic device of disfranchising for the Federal Legislature all the residents in Washington, which of course comprises the whole Civil Service. If our Civil servants abuse their political rights, they will have to be disfranchised.

At the last General Election the discontented Post

Office men formed a Fawcett Committee, and began a regular system of interviewing Metropolitan candidates, who were invited to pledge themselves to vote for an inquiry into grievances. The Postmaster-General, Mr. Arnold Morley, issued an order forbidding Post Office employés to bring pressure to bear on Parliamentary candidates. The Chairman and Secretary of the Fawcett Committee publicly defied the order, and were in consequence discharged from the Post Office. We do not see how anything else could have been done. But these rebellious Civil servants happen to live in Sir Albert Rollit's constituency, and so their case occupied the attention of the Legislature, on its reassembling. It is the complaisance of London members like Sir Albert Rollit that makes the difficulty; for if the Metropolitan members on both sides would agree not to mix themselves up with agitation among Civil servants, the latter would soon tire of their efforts. From the point of view of discipline we are inclined to think that it is better that the Postmaster-General should be in the House of Lords; for a peer is less accessible, naturally, to electioneering influences than a commoner. But the Post Office is a great democratic institution, whose policy "comes home to men's business and bosoms," and probably affects their daily lives more than that of any other State department. It is, therefore, only natural that complaints should be made that the Post Office is without a representative in the House of Commons. Mr. Hanbury, of course, does very well; but we should have thought that the Financial Secretary had quite enough to do with his own business, as, when the new broom has swept the floor for a few Sessions, it will probably admit. The Duke of Norfolk is one of the best Postmasters that ever sat at St. Martin's-le-Grand; but he is probably the last peer who will fill the place.

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

IT is no fault of the American politicians if "the nations of the earth and the rest of mankind," to quote General Zachary Taylor's comprehensive phrase, do not all know by this time that 1896 is what is called in the United States a Presidential year. The fact may be said literally to have been advertised regardless of expense—to the feelings of others. England received its notification of the event at mid-winter, under circumstances which it has not been wholly possible to forget, and most other countries have since had their attention called to it with more or less urgency. In Germany, the announcement took the form of sharp disputes about pork and life-insurance; in France, it assumed the shape of a threatened quarrel over a negro adventurer who was properly arrested in Madagascar, but had to be released instead of being hanged because he was incidentally an American consul. At the present moment Spain is engaged in digesting the intelligence, which has been conveyed to her in terms the like of which no European nation has been forced to listen to since Waterloo restored good manners to their proper place in diplomatic intercourse.

The trick of utilizing a showy and spirited foreign policy to affect domestic elections is by no means a novel device, nor has it been confined in its use to any one part of the globe, or any one kind of government. Prince Bismarck avowedly employed it in 1887, and in France the temptation to turn it to advantage appeals to every Prime Minister in succession. Even in our own politics, the painstaking student might here and there find among the records stray indications that British statesmen had considered the possibility of such a manœuvre. But it is a characteristic of the great American people that when they take up an idea, and put their heart into its realization, they do it as it has never been done before. They made a World's Fair at Chicago, by comparison with which the memories of London and Vienna and even Paris dwindle to the commonplace. When they heard of the surprising railway records achieved in the race of our Northern lines to Aberdeen, they straightway sent a "flyer" across the continent which made our performance trivial. Now that it has occurred to the managers of their respective political parties to compete with each other in the field

of sensational jingoism, it must be admitted at once that they have already left all European records far behind. Such versatility of truculent invention, such range and scope of international insolence, is quite beyond any old-world standard. It is true that in the Old World responsible politicians are somewhat handicapped by the antiquated rule that insults involve fighting; but even if this were not the case, we can think of no Parliamentary body on this side of the water which could possibly rival the exhibition that Congress has been making of itself since mid-December.

But the offence itself has lost its novelty, and has by this time been sufficiently commented upon in every quarter. It is more interesting to inquire why the politicians at Washington should have hit upon the notion that a series of international squabbles was important as a preliminary to the Presidential campaign of this particular year. Nothing of the sort was attempted in 1892, and with the slight and unimportant exception of the Sackville incident in 1888, all the other quadrennial campaigns since the Civil War have been fought with little or no reference to issues of foreign policy. It is true that for the past dozen years, and particularly at the outset, in the Blaine campaign of 1884, a good deal has been said in these struggles about British free trade and British oppression of Ireland, but these party catchwords were equally well understood on both sides of the Atlantic, and had to do only with a strictly domestic problem of electoral gullibility. During the past three years it cannot be said that the American Republic has been subjected to new provocations or slights by other countries. To the contrary, its relations with foreign nations have never been more amiable than they were during the first half of the present Administration. Every Government in Christendom did its best to contribute to the undoubted success of the Chicago Exhibition, and in a spirit of frank cordiality which has not always marked similar enterprises elsewhere. As if in recognition of the new place among nations which the triumph of Chicago gave her, America raised her principal Ministers abroad to the rank of Ambassadors, thus for the first time fully committing herself to the customs and responsibilities of the Old World's diplomatic organization. As late as the first week in December 1895, the President's Message to Congress dwelt with satisfaction upon an exceptionally placid and unruffled state of foreign relations.

Why, then, should Congress proceed to spend four months in practically nothing but deliberate efforts to make the people of the United States believe that they were at enmity with all the rest of the world? It is hardly an answer to point to the Venezuela Message with which President Cleveland, at a fortnight's interval, followed up his earlier pronouncement. That document was, indeed, unfortunate in its phraseology; but it gathered almost all of its unpleasant significance from the blind and insensate fury with which both parties in both Houses of Congress clutched at it as a pretext for Jingo convulsions. And it is not to be forgotten that for months before Senators Lodge and Chandler on the one side, and Morgan on the other, had been preaching in season and out of season a gospel of hatred against England and all things English. They laboured strenuously to stir America against us in May of last year, when we employed a little forcible pressure to collect a just debt from Nicaragua, and the popular commotion which the Venezuelan incident did create was really the belated outcome of these labours rather than a direct result of the President's action. That Venezuela was merely the excuse for Congressional violence, and not its cause, is shown by the facility with which the promoters of the tumult, the moment the English and American peoples insisted upon stopping the stupid wrangle, swung round and attacked Spain with exactly the same vehemence of invective which an hour before they had been hurling at London.

The explanation of all this is to be found, we imagine, in the eagerness of the politicians on both sides to fight next November's battle in the air, so to speak, instead of on solid ground. The two great issues in which the people of the United States have a direct and practical interest are the questions of the Tariff and of Silver. Upon the former question, the Democrats won four years

ago the greatest Presidential victory of modern times, just as two years before, in 1890, they almost annihilated the representation of their Republican adversaries in Congress. These two almost unexampled defeats were the penalty the Republicans paid for having passed the McKinley Bill. Yet now, amazing as it sounds, it is the author of this detested and discredited measure, Mr. McKinley himself, who is leading all his rivals in the race for the Republican Presidential nomination. His candidature is openly forwarded by the agents of the great manufacturing rings and trusts, who are described as having unlimited funds at their disposal, and up to the present his chances of success are conspicuously bright. The very fact of his selection by the financial "bosses" of his party, when it has been demonstrated that he is about the most unpopular man in it with the voters of the country, indicates a profound contempt in the minds of these "bosses" for their opponents—and this contempt seems extremely well deserved.

Mr. Cleveland has been one of the notable Presidents—perhaps the superior in rugged vigour of character, courage, and masterful obstinacy, of any of his predecessors. He has the temperament and force of a born ruler, and he has caught the fancy of a people not much given to hero-worship. If the traditions of his office did not forbid him to stand for a third term, it is likely enough that he would "sweep" the country again, as he did in 1892. But his own popularity reacts destructively upon the Democratic party to which he nominally belongs, and which has distinguished itself chiefly by obstructing and opposing him whenever it dared. Public disgust with this stupid party, which has not had sense enough to follow a great leader when it had one, is very general, and upon this ground alone it would be difficult for any Democratic candidate to win, even against Mr. McKinley. But beyond this there is the further fact that the Silver question, which seriously divides the Republican party, splits the Democratic party quite in half.

In truth, the two historic parties in the United States have lapsed into such a confused state of internal disruption, both as to men and to measures, that they can only be held together by desperate and unnatural expedients. If it were attempted to bring them into the field, and pit them against each other in battle for the principles which ostensibly divide them, they would both fall to pieces in the shock. Even as it is, the appearance of a third party, gathering up in its train the Silver-men, the Populists and the malcontents generally, and fighting for its own hand against both Republicans and Democrats, seems inevitable. But it is the hope of the old party managers to minimize this danger, and to keep the rickety structures of the old partisan organizations in some semblance of cohesion through one more Presidential struggle—and they see no better way of doing this than by setting the people to foam with rage at the Spaniards in Cuba instead of at their own jobbing plunderers and oppressors. Perhaps, from their point of view, there is no better way. But the American people, when they are in earnest, have a trick of finding, very swiftly and peremptorily, a point of view of their own.

PAUPER CHILDREN.

THE Report of the Poor Law Schools Committee is out, and we have rarely seen a document which contained records of so many scandals, or one in which such evils were so moderately stated. The remedies suggested are, however, drastic.

It seems that, at present, there are 17,807 children who, as Metropolitan paupers, are supported by the rates, at the cost of £29 5s. 6d. per annum per child, the capital expenditure on these schools alone standing at £1,284,374. The practice is to herd pauper children in large schools, varying in size from the Westminster Union School of 174 to the Sutton District School of 1,541, but the majority of the twenty-one schools house from five to eight hundred children. The ills that these small mortals suffer when aggregated together are many, and we confess that to us it has been news both painful and surprising that it is the common practice to give young children ophthalmia; to work them eight, nine,

or even eleven hours a day at what the inspector terms the "domestic drudgery" required by the establishments; to keep them, when waiting for admission to the schools, for weeks and months together, in the workhouses in free and daily contact with the adult pauper, and to turn them out into the world at fourteen or fifteen years of age, ignorant of life, unskilled in any trade, and so deficient in ordinary knowledge of common things that many do not know the use of a postage stamp when they see it. Such a state of things seems incredible; yet the Committee, composed of such tried statesmen as Mr. Mundella and Sir John Gorst, and such well-known philanthropists as Mrs. Barnett (Toynbee Hall) and Mr. Lyulph Stanley, have, with four other gentlemen of repute, put their names to a unanimous Report, which states these evils, and offers suggestions of substantial, if radical, remedies.

The chief offenders seem to be the Guardians, who, as a rule, are evidently, neither by class nor education, quite suited to carry on the delicate work of educating, not, be it remembered, the inherently virtuous, healthy, and industrious, but the offspring of the degraded, the vicious, and the unfortunate. All through the Report the sins of the Guardians are touched by an unsparing hand, and we are left with the impression that much more could have been said than has been said. Once only does the language become strong, when a delay is referred to as "alike disastrous to the children and disgraceful to the managers"; and these words are but moderate in relation to the events which called them forth. It seems that in 1874 the Sutton managers were told that ophthalmically their school "was, on the whole, in decidedly the worst condition of any," no less than eleven children having lost one eye. This, however, does not seem to have been considered of much importance by the Guardians of the Greenwich and Camberwell, St. Olave's, Woolwich and Stepney Unions, who contentedly allowed the children entrusted to their care to remain at the Sutton schools, where for a considerable period the sanitary condition had been highly unsatisfactory. During twenty years ophthalmia, "the curse of these institutions," was practically never absent; but in 1894 no less than 462 out of 1,500 children became infected, 20 per cent. with trachoma. A specialist was summoned, who reported that an inspection of the infirmary "disclosed a state of affairs one would have believed to be impossible in these days of enlightened hospital construction." In spite of this Report the managers practically did nothing. The epidemic grew and waned as epidemics do, leaving children whose sole capital was their wretched physique and often permanently damaged eyesight. It would be a relief to hear that Sutton was unique in being subject to such outbreaks of ophthalmia, but the Report leaves its readers with no such consolation, for we are told that while the children of the poor live a normal life only 0.45 per cent. suffer from this disease, whereas in the pauper schools from 15 to 20 per cent. are attacked, many of them being permanently injured. In one of these large schools, out of 880 children afflicted with ophthalmia, 204 had had more than 10 attacks; 123 had had from 6 to 10 attacks; 390 had had 2 to 5 attacks; and 163 one attack. These facts are not new: they have been recognized since 1868; but little or nothing has been done to prevent the evil, though a hospital has been built at the cost of £37,000 to cure the disease, which is practically manufactured by the system of aggregating children. That this is not rhetoric but hard fact is proved by simple arithmetic; for in thirteen years, out of a total of 2,649 children who were pronounced ophthalmic, only 531 had been suffering with ophthalmia when admitted into the school, the remaining 2,118 cases having been developed in the institution.

To supersede these discredited bodies of Guardians the Committee are unanimous in recommending: "that a central authority be appointed for the Metropolis, which shall have the control and supervision of all the London institutions for Poor Law children, charging the expenses to a common fund; and that children above the age of three years be handed over to the Central Metropolitan authority; and in no circumstances allowed to enter the workhouse." The nature of this Board is, to most of the Committee, a matter of

uncertain conjecture; but Sir John Gorst and Mrs. Barnett are not so vague. In a terse note appended to their signatures they affirm that, in their judgment, the body referred to should be such a Council as that recommended by the Secondary Education Committee, and that it should be solely under the supervision of the Education Department. In short, they assert their belief that the Local Government Board has failed in its duty to the children; and the text of the Report undoubtedly bears out their opinion. For nineteen or twenty years, it tells us, the managers, regardless of the Elementary Education Act, have worked little children under ten years of age as half-timers. For six years the Education Inspector of the Local Government Board has been endeavouring to get the issue of a new Departmental order to limit the hours during which the children may be put to labour, but without success. For seven years the City Guardians have been waiting for a reply concerning the apprenticeship of lads. Fifteen years ago an order was issued concerning recreative appliances in playgrounds; but in many schools the children remain toyless, the order is unobserved, and the Local Government Board is practically powerless to enforce it. In 1841 the Poor Law Commissioners pointed out the evils of maintaining children in the workhouses; but the Report before us states that these evils still exist to-day and in an aggravated form, 2,994 children being in the workhouses, of whom 2,151 are over two years of age. This is a serious list of accusations to bring against a department, and as they are but a few among many, they give colour to the contention that the children should be removed from the overburdened Local Government Board, and placed under the Education Department. In place of the barrack schools the Report recommends that the Central Board, into whose hands the Committee unanimously propose to hand over the care of pauper children, should foster and extend the boarding-out system, assist in the establishment of small certified homes, and encourage emigration under proper and stringent inspection—a point, by the way, which has been hitherto shockingly neglected by the Local Government Board and the Canadian Government. All their suggestions, therefore, lie in the direction of greater variety in the treatment of the children; a closer assimilation of their lives to those of the self-respecting working classes outside; emancipation, as far as possible, from pauper associations, and enlarged opportunities for obtaining the sort of training in citizenship and intelligence which is now accessible to all other English children of school age. A training of this description is indispensable if those who are chargeable to the State are to be really absorbed on favourable terms into the general population of the country.

IRELAND ONCE MORE.

WE hardly know whether it will inspire or depress Mr. Gerald Balfour to remind him that when he rises on Monday to introduce yet another Irish Land Bill—can anybody count how many there have been since 1870?—it will be the anniversary almost to a day of the introduction of the Home Rule Bill in 1886. The memory of Mr. Gladstone's failure, disastrous to himself and his followers, may delight the partisan, but it will not encourage the statesman who hopes for finality. And yet if the Chief Secretary has only the courage to face the situation boldly the omens are all in his favour. After a prolonged period of depression things are decidedly looking up in Ireland—the remarkable figures cited by the Marquess of Londonderry in his speech at Belfast on Monday are proof of it—and professional agitation is decidedly at a discount. Mr. John Redmond, acting as the candid friend of the Irish Parliamentary party, plainly told them on Tuesday that for the present the game was up. The Nationalist majority, he said, "are despised in Parliament: their spokesmen attract no attention and command no respect from any party; their organization is shattered; their funds are bankrupt; their credit is exhausted." "With such a state of things in existence how can any Irishman enter on a war with the Government with a light heart? That is the danger of the situation." We have so often been told that England's difficulty is Ireland's oppor-

tunity that it is pleasant to be able to record that the proverb works both ways, and that the difficulty, the "danger," to use Mr. Redmond's word, of the Irish professional agitator may become the opportunity of the English statesman.

The present urgency for a Bill arises of course from the necessity of completing Mr. Gladstone's half-done work of 1870 and 1881. Indeed, Gladstonian legislation for Ireland for the last quarter-century has largely consisted in opening up or reviving difficult questions and leaving them for others to settle. Under the Bill of 1881 rents were fixed for fifteen years, and if the "judicial leases," the first batch of which expire with the next Michaelmas "gale," were to come to an end without something being provided to take their place, nobody quite knows what would happen. So there must be a Bill for the revision of rents, and it is understood that advantage will be taken of the opportunity to add clauses for the promotion of land purchase, to facilitate the restoration of evicted tenants, and further to consolidate the legal procedure in connexion with the various departments dealing with land in Ireland. There will also, either as part of this Bill or as a separate measure, be a plan for the establishment of an Agricultural Department. All of which goes to make a pretty big scheme; but no one is likely to quarrel with the Government for that. It is the peculiarity of Irish politics that every question involves all the other questions; and, as even the quickness of Mr. Gully would be unable to prevent Land Purchase and the Evicted Tenants from being discussed at length on any Bill that could be introduced, we fancy it will be found, and not for the first time, that when you have a big question to deal with it is quite as easy to carry a big Bill as a small one. Mr. Gerald Balfour, as we have more than once said, has the rare advantage of having no past. He is pledged to no theory and no party in Ireland, and so can afford to steer an even keel between landlord and tenant, between the Defence Union and the Land League; nor will he have to mutilate his measure by straining after some unattainable consistency or uniformity in a matter in which such things are vain words. If he were, we would remind him of the wise words of Mr. Gladstone: "No memory is so short as political memory. The party which can count upon forgetfulness need not trouble with repentance or conversion." The Tories, like the Liberals, have many things to repent of with regard to Ireland; but their judgment will lie with the future, and not with the past.

What, then, has Mr. Balfour to do if he hopes to succeed where Mr. Gladstone so egregiously failed? He need not attempt impossibilities; it is impossible, for example, to produce abounding prosperity and contentment in a purely agricultural country in a period of agricultural depression. Steam communication and free imports have done more to intensify Irish distress than all the noisy political questions put together, but even an Irish Parliament could not put down the means of communication which enable the Argentine grain-grower to undersell his rival in Ireland or in England. On the other hand, it must be remembered that while custom and competition lower rents automatically in England, the law has to intervene in Ireland. We need not stop to inquire who is responsible for this state of things. Since the Act of 1870 it has been inevitable, and it will continue so until rent-paying has been merged in the payment of purchase instalments. But we most earnestly hope that Mr. Balfour has devised some scheme for putting an end to the unsatisfactory, expensive, and demoralizing system of peripatetic Land Courts. They have made fortunes for a few hundred country solicitors, they have raised hard swearing to a fine art, and have produced no end of "bad blood," but any positive or permanent good done would be hard to find. If a department of the Court were given power to vary rents according to the rise and fall in the price of certain articles, it would answer as a rough-and-ready sliding scale, and would do all that the present Courts do at about one-tenth of the cost. With regard to Land Purchase, all that is wanted is a little loosening and oiling of the machinery of the Act of 1890. In the sale of encumbered estates the preference should in all cases be given

to the tenants, and the payment of the instalments should when necessary be spread over a longer term of years, so as to make the burden lighter on the existing holder. The difficulty of the evicted tenants is more a sentiment than a reality. The bulk of them have repented of their folly in listening to Mr. John Dillon and have gone back quietly. Mr. Smith Barry, for example, has just come to terms with the whole of his agricultural tenants in Tipperary, and other settlements are in progress. Here and there a landlord like Lord Clanricarde continues to act as a public nuisance and a public danger, but it is difficult to deal with Shylock when he has the law on his side, and where his opponents have put themselves out of court by the criminal imbecility of their conduct. But the Irish Parliamentary party would have their Mr. Dillon, and they must take the consequences, although it is "hard on" a country to have a leader whose fate it is to be unable to touch any question without making himself and it ridiculous. Monday is Mr. Gerald Balfour's day of fate. If he gives proof of the possession of some of the courage and grit and grasp of the question displayed two weeks ago by Sir John Gorst, it will be lucky for him and for the Government.

PRISON TREATMENT.

ENGLISHMEN are justly proud of their Civil Service, the efficiency and integrity of which are not equalled by the permanent administration of any other country. But if our permanent officials are reputed to have a weakness, it is that of a too stubborn adherence to existing routine. The mind of the highly placed Civil servant is, as a rule, obsessed by the suspicion that new ideas applied to administration are dangerous. Mr. Ruggles-Brise was appointed last summer to succeed Sir Edmund Du Cane as Chairman of the Prisons Commission, and under his auspices the Prison Commissioners have issued their Report on the recommendations of the departmental Committee on Prisons which was appointed by the Secretary of State in 1894. The observations of the Commissioners on the various proposals for the modification of prison treatment are marked by a flexibility of intelligence and a breadth of sympathy for which we were not prepared, and which contradicts all our preconceived notions of the rigid conservatism of the official mind. Defects in the system of prison discipline are admitted; suggestions of reform are either welcomed and adopted, or they are dismissed with a gentle demonstration of their impracticability, or they are met by counter-suggestions based upon greater knowledge. Quite recently Mr. Ruggles-Brise delivered an eloquent speech in support of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies, and the attitude of the Commissioners towards this excellent, but unofficial, organization is an example of their sympathetic and earnest interest in the welfare of those committed to their charge. The Commissioners recommend that an inquiry should be conducted, either by a Government Inspector or by one or more prison chaplains, into the nature and working of the Prisoners' Aid Societies, and that a scheme for their better organization and supervision should be drawn up. When a report is obtained, the Commissioners more than hint that they will recommend an increase of the Government grant, and they suggest a revival of the joint annual conferences of Visiting Committees and Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies, which were begun in 1885, but for some reason allowed to drop. For those interested in one of the most commendable, but least adequately supported, forms of philanthropy all this will be good news. It is evident from this White Book, that the departmental Committee was composed of prison reformers of advanced views, and their recommendations are tinged with that sentimentalism which is so often pushed to undesirable and ridiculous extremes. It is the duty of the Commissioners to check any exaggeration of tenderness towards criminals, and in dealing with the proposal to abolish unproductive labour, they do well to insist upon the necessity of "penal labour of a deterrent nature" accompanying the early stages of imprisonment. Many people will, we fancy, be surprised to learn that hard labour of the first class—namely, crank and tread-

wheel—is limited at present to so short a period as one month. The Commissioners agree that purely unproductive labour is not only a waste but demoralizing, and they think it worth considering whether the period of one month might not be shortened, on the understanding that the labour shall be really penal and also productive, as it could be made by retaining none but cranks and treadwheels which pump water and grind corn. Where these instruments are purely mechanical, and cannot be utilized, they are to be abolished, and some other form of hard labour, such as stone-breaking or the heavy loom, is to be substituted. No one could object to such changes as these: but when it comes to reducing the period of hard labour below a month, we are afraid that the preference which the vagabond class at present express openly for the prison over the workhouse will be dangerously enhanced. If anything could tend to prevent this, it would be the adoption of stone-breaking in the prisons; for, according to the workhouse officials, there is no form of labour which vagrants detest so cordially.

The organization of prison industry is, as the Commissioners say, "a large field for useful reform." It is a difficult and delicate subject. The competition of prison labour with outside industry has often been the subject of angry protest from labour leaders and others. It is satisfactory to be reminded that the old system has been reversed. Prior to 1878 a regular trade was carried on between the prisons and the outside public, both at home and abroad. Some prisons even had foreign agents to dispose of their manufactures. Since the above date, all prison labour has been for Government departments, which of course is competition, but not such severe competition, with honest labour as before. But from something which the Commissioners let drop on the subject of prison workshops, we are not sure that they do not contemplate finding a market for prison products outside Government departments. The Commissioners are in favour of the principle of "associated labour" in classes and workshops, but they point out that its application in local prisons must be cautiously and tentatively applied. Associated labour is, of course, practised now in convict establishments, where the prisoners are collected from all points of the compass. But it would be more difficult to work where the prisoners come from the same locality. Formerly masks were used to conceal identity, and it is more than probable that some local prisoners would object to association in classes or workshops with other criminals. Still, the Commissioners think that the experiment is worth trying, and they point out, as in duty bound, that the building of additional workshops, providing instructors, increasing the number of supervising officers, and finding additional productive work for 1,777 male and 139 female prisoners will entail additional expense. The money would not be grudged; but the Commissioners will have to be careful lest their operations derange the local labour market. If they become serious competitors in local markets, they will only raise a formidable opposition from the working classes to all productive prison labour.

There is one recommendation made by the Committee and referred by the Commissioners to Dr. Gover, the Medical Inspector of Prisons, which we must allude to, because it is characteristic of the sentimentalist school. It is proposed that gymnastic exercises should be organized for the prisoners to take the place of walking. Dr. Gover points out that exercises in gymnasia would be probably attended with risk of accidental injury and an increase in the number of attempted suicides. It would be necessary to have a doctor near at hand while the prisoners were exercising themselves upon horizontal and parallel bars, ladders, poles, &c., and largely to increase the watching staff. This, together with the building of gymnasia, would involve a considerable addition to the Prisons vote, for which, in our judgment, there is no justification. Whilst on the subject of medical attendance, we must call attention to the fact that both the Commissioners and Dr. Gover state that the medical staff at Holloway, Liverpool, and Strangeways prisons is inadequate; that urgent representations on this head have repeatedly been made to the Lords of the Treasury by the Prison Commission; and that no notice has been taken by the Treasury.

This strikes us as being little short of a scandal, due either to neglect or parsimony.

To the student of prison treatment no subject is more interesting than "recidivism," or the slipping back into crime of the casual, as distinguished from the habitual, criminal. The cure for recidivism is obviously to get hold of the first offenders and young prisoners, and treat them separately from the hardened gaol-birds. A first offender, technically speaking, may be an habitual criminal, for it may be that he has never been caught before—such nice management and minute inquiry does this branch of prison discipline require. The Commissioners do not object to raising the age of juveniles, for purposes of prison treatment, to seventeen; and for recidivism in petty offences they admit that "loss of liberty under a special form of sentence, with the obligation to work, but under less onerous conditions than in prison," may be an effective cure. But against habitual recidivism in the graver forms of crime, the only effectual safeguard in the opinion of the Commissioners is to be found in "the firm and judicious application of the existing law; and, secondly, in a keener and more sustained vigilance over the man on his discharge." But where the criminal tendency is inveterate, and the resources of the law and human effort have been exhausted, "we should be in favour," say the Commissioners, "of power being given to the judge to commit for long and indeterminate periods." Another recommendation of interest approved by the Commission is that debtors and surety prisoners should be treated in the same way as prisoners sentenced to simple imprisonment for ordinary breaches of the law. Altogether, Mr. Ruggles-Brise and his colleagues are to be congratulated on having produced a State paper of the deepest interest and the highest authority upon a public question which is second in importance to none.

MR. WELLS'S "DR. MOREAU."

THOSE who have delighted in the singular talent of Mr. Wells will read "The Island of Dr. Moreau" (Heinemann, 1896) with dismay. We have all been saying that here is an author with the emotions of an artist and the intellectual imagination of a scientific investigator. He has given us in "The Time Machine" a diorama of prophetic visions of the dying earth, imagined with a pitiless logic, and yet filled with a rare beauty, sometimes sombre and majestic, sometimes shining with fantastic grace. He has brought down among us the angel of our dreams, and, while using the faculties a naturalist would employ in studying the new habitat of a species, he has made us laugh and weep, flush with an unsuspected shame, hug a discovered virtue. Behind these high gifts, behind the simple delight of his story-telling, there has seemed to lie a reasoned attitude to life, a fine seriousness that one at least conjectures to be the background of the greater novelists. When the prenatal whispers of "The Island of Dr. Moreau" reached me, I rejoiced at the promise of another novel with a scientific basis, and I accepted gladly the opportunity given me to say something of it, from the scientific point of view, as well as from that of a devoted novel-reader. But, instead of being able to lay my little wreath at the feet of Mr. Wells, I have to confess the frankest dismay.

For Mr. Wells has put out his talent to the most flagitious usury. His central idea is a modelling of the human frame and endowment of it with some semblance of humanity, by plastic operations upon living animals. The possibilities of grafting and moulding, of shaping the limbs and larynx and brain, of transfusing blood, of changing physiological rhythm, and vague suggestions of hypnotizing dawning intelligence with the elemental rules of human society—these would seem to offer a rich vein to be worked by Mr. Wells's logical fancy. They are, indeed, finely imagined, and the story of the hero, suddenly brought into an island peopled with such nightmare creatures, is vivid and exciting to the last degree. To realize them, you must read of the bewilderment and horror of the hero, while he thinks the creatures are men outraged and distorted: of his fear for his own fate at the hands of the artificer of the unnatural: of his gradual acquaintance with the real nature of the monsters: of his new horror

at the travesties of human form and mind: of the perils that begin when the "stubborn beast-flesh" has overcome the engrafted humanity, and the population has risen in rebellion against its creator. All this is excellent; but the author, during the inception of his story, like his own creatures, has tasted blood. The usurious interest began when the author, not content with the horror inevitable in his idea, and yet congruous with the fine work he has given us hitherto, sought out revolting details with the zeal of a sanitary inspector probing a crowded graveyard.

You begin with a chromolithographic shipwreck, and three starving survivors playing odd-man-out for a cannibal feast. The odd man breaks faith, and, in the resulting struggle, the hero is left alone in a blood-bespattered boat. When he is rescued, a drunken doctor, no doubt disinclined to change the supposed diet, restores him with a draught of iced blood. When the island is reached he is not allowed by Mr. Wells to land until, refused hospitality by Dr. Moreau and cast adrift by the drunken captain, he has again meditated upon starvation, this time without any mates for whose blood he may pass halfpence. Dr. Moreau himself is a *cliché* from the pages of an anti-vivisection pamphlet. He has been hounded out of London because a flayed dog (you hear the shuddering ladies handing over their guineas) has been liberated from his laboratory by a spying reporter. It is the blood that Mr. Wells insists upon forcing on us; blood in the sink "brown and red," on the floor, on the hands of the operators, on the bandages that swathe the creatures or that they have left hanging on the bushes—physically disgusting details inevitable in the most conservative surgery; but still more unworthy of restrained art, and, in this case, of scientific *vraisemblance*, is the insistence upon the terror and pains of the animals, on their screams under the knife, and on Dr. Moreau's indifference to the "bath of pain" in which his victims were moulded and recast. Mr. Wells must know that the delicate, prolonged operations of modern surgery became possible only after the introduction of anaesthetics. Equally wrong is the semi-psychological suggestion that pain could be a humanizing agency. It may be that the conscious subjection to pain for a purpose has a desirable mental effect; pain in itself, and above all continuous pain inflicted on a struggling, protesting creature, would produce only madness and death. Mr. Wells will not even get his hero out of the island decently. When Dr. Moreau has been killed by his latest victim—a puma become in the laboratory "not human, not animal, but hellish, brown, seamed with red branching scars, red drops starting out upon it"—Mr. Wells must needs bring in an alien horror. The "boat from the machine" drifts ashore with two dead men in it—men "dead so long that they fell in pieces" when the hero dumped them out for the last of the island monsters to snarl over.

It may be that a constant familiarity with the ways and work of laboratories has dulled my sense of the æsthetic possibilities of blood—anatomists, for the most part, wash their hands before they leave their work—and that a public attuned to Mr. Rider Haggard's view of the romantic may demand the insertion of details physically unpleasant; but, for my own part, I feel that Mr. Wells has spoiled a fine conception by greed of cheap horrors. I beg of him, in the name of many, a return to his sane transmutations of the dull conceptions of science into the living and magical beauty he has already given us. We that have read his earlier stories will read all he chooses to write; but must he choose the spell of Circe?

There remains to be said a word about the scientific conceptions underlying Dr. Moreau's experiments. I quite agree that there is scientific basis enough to form the plot of a story. But in an appended note, Mr. Wells is scaring the public unduly. He declares:—"There can be no denying that whatever amount of scientific credibility attaches to the detail of this story, the manufacture of monsters—and perhaps even of quasi-human monsters—is within the possibilities of vivisection." The most recent discussion of grafting and transfusion experiments is to be found in a treatise by Oscar Hertwig, a translation of which Mr. Heinemann announces. Later investigators have failed to repeat

the grafting experiments of Hunter, and a multitude of experiments on skin and bone grafting and on transfusion of blood shows that animal-hybrids cannot be produced in these fashions. You can transfuse blood or graft skin from one man to another; but attempts to combine living material from different creatures fail.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL.

TRADE WITH SOUTH-WEST CHINA.

THE projected opening of the Se-kiang, or West River, promises to be an event of first-class importance to British trade. Existing treaties with China give us sufficient access to the seaboard, and to the chief marts on the banks of the Yangtze. What is wanted now is freer intercourse with the interior of a country which is as large, be it remembered, as all Europe excluding Russia. Chinese roads are worse than our own were before the days of MacAdam, and railways are absent. Pending reformation in these respects, China possesses means of communication over vast areas, in her splendid waterways, and one must have travelled on the upper reaches of a Chinese river to appreciate the extent to which this means of carriage is utilized. But movement by sail and scull is slow, and maladministration further hinders trade.

Finance cannot be effectively centralized in a vast and loosely organized Empire. Local taxation is admitted even in England, which is about the size of an average Chinese province. Subject to certain contributions to Peking, each Chinese province finances itself; and the officials—who are so underpaid that they must squeeze to live—find their profit in a lax system of accounts. To tax commerce at given points along its highways has always been a favourite device: robbers exercised it before Governments assumed the right! and many interests are concerned, in China, in multiplying such stations. Chinese traders know how to protect themselves, to a certain extent, but the foreigner is as helpless as a sheep before its shearer; so we agreed in our treaties to compound for all transit duties by one payment of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*. The Provincial authorities in Southern China, however, have resisted the exercise of this right. In no part of the Empire is commerce so harried; the multiplication of Customs barriers on the West River may remind us of the legends of knights and castles on the Rhine.

A glance at the map will show that the Se-kiang occupies a rank second only to that of the Yangtze in the great system of Chinese waterways. It drains Southern China as the Yangtze drains the centre; presenting, in fact, such a network that it is difficult to say which is the main stream. Assuming that which derives from Pésé to possess this characteristic, it receives three principal affluents during its course of 750 miles from the Yunnan frontier to the sea—namely, the Likang, which connects it (at Nanning) with Lungchow, on the border of Tongking; the Pak-ho, which joins it at Hsunchow after a course of some three hundred miles, during which it has received affluents from the frontiers of Kweichow; and the Fuho, which joins it at Wuchow, after flowing 150 miles from Kweilin, the capital of Kwangse. It is these three cities, therefore—Nanning, Hsunchow, and Wuchow—which British merchants in Hongkong are specially anxious to have opened to residence and trade. Time will show the wisdom of opening others; but access to Nanning will enable goods to be laid down free of exaction nearly 600 miles inland; and the right will doubtless be reserved of navigating other branches as experience is gained.

We know less of the region which the West River drains than of any other part of China. It is certainly not comparable to that drained by the Yangtze, for wealth, but very few regions are. Kwangtung we know to be rich, but Kwangse ranks as one of the poorer provinces: the lateral districts, especially on the North, are mountainous, and the population is believed to be sparse. Owing to this very characteristic, however, the scenery is described as superb; the river opening out occasionally into broad lakes, which appear landlocked until a turn discloses an opening between the hills. It is towards Yunnan that those interested are looking with the keenest anticipation. The wealth

and commerce of that famous province may have been exaggerated, but the tradition of their existence can hardly be a myth. It was approached, evidently, by various ways: the northern district was served by the Yangtze; there were trade routes to Burma on the West and to Siam on the South; while the West River constituted a great artery of commerce with Canton. Travellers bear testimony to evidences of former prosperity in the ruined cities and the remains of once handsome yamens, temples, and guildhalls along its banks; and this prosperity is attributed largely to the through traffic from Yunnan which once found its way from Pesé to Canton. But Yunnan has undergone an eclipse. The change dates from the Mahomedan uprising which was known, here, as the Panthay revolt.

provement of communications throughout the great region which it drains.

The masters of Tongking have shown a disposition to regard South-West China as a French preserve. It is to put it mildly to say that their attitude during our efforts to get the West River opened has been unsympathetic; and M. Gérard is said to have insisted now on the construction of a railway northward from Lungchow, as compensation. Lungchow is the frontier station between Tongking and Kwangse, but it is on the north of the Tongking watershed. The river which runs past Haiphong is navigable to Phulangthuong; and a railway has been made through the hills, to connect with the head waters of the Li-kiang, which flows past Lungchow. A railway northward from Lungchow



The destruction of life by war, pestilence, and famine during that great civil war has been estimated at from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000: it is easy to picture the ruin entailed. And while that was occurring in Yunnan, the Taiping rebellion was desolating Kwangse. Recovery from such conditions must be slow. Rebels degenerate into robbers; brigandage survives after organized resistance has been suppressed, and river pirates survive even the extinction of brigandage ashore. Official requirements, exaggerated by official rapacity, hinder reviving trade. And a fresh complication has been introduced, in the present case, by the competition of the Red River route across Tongking.

It was the accidental discovery by De Lagrée and his companions, of the existence and potential capabilities of the Red River, that laid the foundation of French interest in Tongking; and French policy has since been intent on promoting intercourse by its means with Yunnan. The attempt has been measurably successful. Light draught steamers can ascend it to Laokai, and China has been induced to open her frontier and to facilitate trade by light taxation. Merchandise to the value of £365,000 passed through Mengtze in 1894; and the steady increase since the way was opened, in 1889, justifies anticipation of further growth. Formerly, no doubt, circumstances favoured the Canton route, at the expense of Hanoi. The tables have now been turned; and instead of enticing trade back, the mandarins have been discouraging it by their exactions. The opening of the West River will redress the balance, for steamers cannot be brought up and delayed, and the owners of their cargo worried and threatened, every forty or fifty miles. The Red River taps a certain region which will always find it a convenient channel; but topographical considerations forbid that it should become an exclusive trade route for Southern Yunnan. It is reasonable to suppose that, when facilities are afforded, the West River will recover its share; and it is certain that the population of Southern China will benefit by the im-

would seem to imply a purpose of trying to reach Pesé; but it remains to ascertain the nature of the country; besides, water will generally beat the rail. As it is, the trade which passed through Lungchow in 1894 was valued at about £26,000.

R. S. GUNDRY.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE AND THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE real importance of the great medical libel case, *Kitson v. Playfair*, lies not in its result so much as in the incidental revelation of the extraordinary code of professional etiquette, practically authorized by the College of Physicians, which the eminent medical men, who supported Dr. Playfair, disclosed to an astonished public. The general public had up to then believed that the secrets of patients, confided to medical men in professional consultation, were held inviolate, not only by the individual trustworthiness and personal sense of honour of the medical men, but by the established etiquette of the profession. This the general public now learns to be an error, and a view of the etiquette of the Medical Profession is set forth which if it had proceeded from anti-vivisection or anti-vaccination critics would have been considered a gross attack on an honourable and distinguished profession. We are well aware that a great body of our medical men are men of honour, and may be depended upon to take the highest view of their responsibilities to their patients; but it is a very serious thing that the etiquette of the profession—for in no profession is etiquette a greater force—should support so lax a view of the duty of the medical man with respect to the revelation of secrets learned in the medical confessional.

The feeling of the public to-day on hearing that the etiquette of the profession does not demand that medical men, under certain circumstances (for instance, the protection of their own families from contact with persons whom they consider to be actually in a position to deserve the sentence of social ostracism), should hold

inviolate the secrets of their patients, committed to them while on duty in the medical confessional, is nothing short of astonishment and dismay, a feeling which found expression in the indignant comment of Mr. Justice Hawkins at the recent trial. There is good reason for this. Gradually, but surely, the medical confessor has succeeded to the power and privileges of the clerical, and the place of the priestly confessional in the past is to-day occupied by the medical; a place which the success of medical science in general, and surgical science in particular, is daily establishing with more assured and universal power among all classes of society. In the palmy days of the priestly confessional what would have been thought of father confessors who revealed the secrets of the confessional? and in our own time, to look at the immediate present, what would be thought of a solicitor who revealed, for some private and personal reason, the private affairs of his clients? And yet, if the confidence placed in the trustworthiness of a legal adviser is great, not less, but rather more, is the trust necessarily placed by a patient in the doctor to whom he confides the most secret and delicate facts of his life in the medical confessional. That medical men as well as legal advisers are, generally speaking, worthy of the trust reposed in them may be unreservedly admitted; but the danger of having to rely on individual honour and individual discretion where the code of etiquette permits a perilous laxity can hardly be overestimated. If his patients were to be convinced that a particular medical man held himself free to communicate the secrets of his patients to his wife, not to speak of other members of his family, there can be little doubt that the majority of them would seek medical aid and advice elsewhere. And what is true of the individual doctor is true of the profession collectively. If the etiquette of the profession does not, as was formerly supposed, thoroughly and scrupulously protect the patients, the public will feel that the old confidence can no longer be reposed in the physician, and vital facts will be suppressed by patients at the risk of their own health and to the detriment of the medical man's success in treating his cases.

What makes this particular laxity the more censurable is that there is probably no other profession in which professional etiquette is more strongly established and rigorously enforced. But the cause of the laxity is not far to seek. Medical etiquette is selfish, plainly intended for the protection of the doctor, and too commonly careless of, or even distinctly opposed to, the interests of the public. What, for example, is the customary etiquette when a medical man is called in to pronounce upon a serious case which has been making no progress under another medical man? The medical man who is called in finds, perhaps, that the unsuccessful doctor has made a wrong diagnosis of the disease, or, at any rate, has treated it wrongly. Is he permitted by medical etiquette to speak the truth and state what he finds? Certainly not. He must publicly express to the patient and his friends satisfaction with the treatment and privately explain to the erring disciple of Esculapius the errors of it. In short, he must consider the infallibility of the profession, not the truth of the case or the interests of the patient. Accordingly he hides the incompetency of the medical man, and leaves him to go on misleading the public to the danger of their health if not of their lives. The habit is thus engendered of authoritative statement where the knowledge of the doctor is really insufficient or uncertain, and the public are deceived to their danger and loss.

In short, to support the general credit of the profession the physician must economize if not distort the truth, and gravely imperil the interests of the patient and of the public, while for personal reasons, such as the reason we have instanced, he may disclose the secrets of his patients or use the threat of disclosure to compel them to act in a way he chooses to think fit. He is allowed to obtain information under seal of the supposed inviolable secrecy of the consulting-room, and then permitted to make it known, under certain circumstances, to the detriment and danger of his trustful confidants. The College of Physicians appears to authorize, and the distinguished medical men who supported Dr. Playfair appear to entertain, this lax view of

the seal of silence, which the public had supposed to guard inviolate the secrets of the consulting-room; while it must be assumed they have at least no disapproval for the etiquette which covers the errors of the ignorant practitioner regardless of the interests of his patient and of the public. Experience shows that the average medical man is by no means infallible, and it would certainly be most perilous to the interest of the public were he to be expected to report to the Public Prosecutor his suspicions of patients, based on symptoms or signs he had observed when consulted in his professional capacity.

It would be easy to show much more fully that medical etiquette, while careful of the general credit of the profession, is careless of the interests of the public. We will content ourselves with a single instance of what we mean. The great established means for reaching the public to-day is advertisement in the Press. This is used now as a matter of course by our leading authors and by many of the leading clergy of the Church of England, as well as by those of the various Dissenting bodies. Yet this chief means of bringing the public into touch with them is absolutely prohibited to members of the medical profession. It is prohibited to the able and highly qualified young medical man, while he must look on and see it used in all its unvalued efficacy by the quack doctor and the sham specialist. Of course this etiquette secures the great bulk of the lucrative practice for the successful elder men in the medical profession; but it not only leaves the younger men out in the cold, by forbidding them to publish their qualifications, it does a far more serious disservice to the public, who are thus abandoned to the mercy of the quacks and charlatans, who do reach a wide circle only too successfully; while numbers of really competent and qualified medical men are ready to exercise the healing art, but are left without patients, the senseless professional etiquette barring the means open alike to the author and the clergyman, and condemning the public to ignorance of the qualified professional ability at their disposal. Already, we believe, medical men are allowed to advertise in the press in the United States, and the result is that the most highly qualified men have more practice, and the quack and the sham less. In the interests of the public it is time that some united effort should be made by the large number of progressive minds in the medical profession, and the great means for bringing the public who need advice into touch with the professional men who are qualified to supply it should be rescued from its present misuse, and employed to the general advantage of the medical profession, and, what is far more important, in the interests of the vast public which can be effectively reached in no other way than by advertisements in the press. A plan could surely be devised by which those only whose qualifications were proved by the possession of the regular degrees and the passing of the regular examinations should be permitted to advertise. Let the public have a choice between American quacks and qualified English practitioners, and the result cannot be doubtful. This, too, would give a new value to scholarships and medals as well as degrees; and what is true of medical and surgical practitioners would be found at least equally true of numbers of highly qualified dentists, who, owing to the prohibition of advertisement by the same senseless etiquette, make a difficult living, while they watch American and Jewish charlatans raking in large fortunes from a public that is left at their mercy.

"THE REDEMPTION" AT QUEEN'S HALL.

HOW London amuses itself on Good Friday every one knows; and it would seem that Mr. Robert Newman's Good Friday concert at Queen's Hall, a very different form of amusement from the old Good Friday concert, has been instituted in the very nick of time to save London-pent citizens from turning aside to evil courses in sheer despair of finding anything else to do on that day. Anyhow, the enormous crowd which attended the performance of the "Redemption" by the Queen's Hall Choral Society a week yesterday showed beyond dispute how many thousands of well-meaning people must have been passionately yearning for a more

exhilarating way of passing an afternoon than the "Messiah," or the sacred concert, or the church. Any one who left the hall in less than a state of perfect delight may regard his state as hopeless: he is fit only to be a musical critic. So admirable a rendering of a choral work could be heard nowhere else than at the Queen's Hall, and from no other body of singers than the Queen's Hall Choral Society. Not only were the larger and louder choruses, such as "The word is flesh become," "Unfold, ye portals everlasting," and the jibes of the passers-by in the crucifixion scene, given cleanly, with strength and grip, but the gentler numbers, such as "The earth is my possession" and "Lovely appear," were sung with a delicacy and subtlety of expression that left absolutely nothing to wish for. The only shortcoming worth mentioning occurred in the chorales. With all deference to so excellent a choir-trainer as Mr. Randegger, I wish to remind him that these freely-shaped pieces demand a mode of singing quite different from the mode that would suit a tune from "Hymns, Ancient and Modern." Only strict attention to time and firm accentuation are needed there; whereas in the case of a Gounod chorale, too much care cannot be devoted to phrasing, expressive accent, and light and shade. Mr. Randegger disregarded these qualities, and also allowed the choir to enunciate the last syllable of each line, and consonants not properly belonging to the last syllable, with a quite laughable force and clearness. For instance one heard,

"For us the Christ is made a victim avaiLING,
Yea, unto death, and the death of the CROSS;
In vain our ancient foe will mankind be assaiLING.
To him who now has died shall be triumph unfaiLING."

—and thus the pigeon English of the verse was made doubly comic. But I have no desire to carp at singing which, on the whole, was superbly artistic, and only refer to this fault because it is one that may easily be amended if Mr. Randegger can abandon the "Hymns, Ancient and Modern" ideal, as he certainly will if he gives the matter half-a-minute's thought. The soloists were in their happiest moods. If Mr. Iver McKay's irrepressible joviality of manner was a little oppressive sometimes, and frequently out of place, he sang many of his phrases with genuine feeling and delicious tone, and atoned for his most good-humoured moments by a wonderful bit of vocalization at "Lord, wilt thou remember me?" Mr. Bispham's reading of the part of the bass Narrator was flawless in its sincerity and dramatic beauty; and it certainly was worth going to the concert merely to hear his delivery of the Centurion's speech. Miss Marie Duma, too, sang exquisitely in "From thy love as a Father," but was unwise enough to accept an encore, and, by singing as unfeelingly as she had just sung perfectly, destroyed the impression she had made. Miss Hilda Wilson's share was small and insignificant, but she made the most of it. Though Mr. Ludwig had a part, that of Jesus, which did not in the least suit his rather rough and heavy voice and clumsy delivery, he managed to keep himself sufficiently under restraint to be not displeasing. The band played with precision throughout. So the concert was, on the whole, one of the most agreeable, and certainly the most popularly successful, I have attended for some time.

So agreeable, so successful, was it, that at the time it never occurred to me what an oddly conceived work was made to yield such a rare delight. Yet surely "The Redemption" is the most extraordinary hybrid ever produced by a composer—even by a French composer. It is not entirely an oratorio, nor an opera, nor a pantomime, though a considerable amount of all three may be discovered in it. The subject is a vast one—a great deal vaster than the subject of the Iliad or of "Paradise Lost." In fact "The Redemption" deals with the subject of "Paradise Lost" within the first half-dozen pages, and then proceeds to treat in rapid succession the subjects of the "Christmas Oratorio," the "Matthew" and "John" Passion, "Paradise Regained," and one or two more that have not so far been handled by a great artist. To the execution of this gigantic task, Gounod—who was his own librettist—did not bring quite the intellect of a Homer or a Milton for the literary part, nor the musicianship of a Bach for the musical part. What he did bring was

the intelligence of a low-class Romanist priest; a mysticism verging close on religious mania; the musical power of the creator of Marguerite and no other character beside; and the invincible theatrical tendencies and the theatrical experience of the composer of "Faust," "Romeo and Juliet," "The Queen of Sheba," and "Philemon and Baucis." His inferior intelligence is seen in the poor conception of Jesus, and in the ineptitude of much of the libretto; and his mysticism in such numbers as "The Reproaches," and in his touching confidence in the significance of arbitrary and inexpressive symbolical phrases, which, whatever they meant to him, symbolize nothing intelligible to any one else. The result of his theatrical tendencies may be discerned clearly in his choice of such incidents as the March to Calvary, the Darkness, the Earthquake, the rending of the Veil of the Temple, the appearance of the Angel, the descent of the Tongues of Fire, for the most elaborate musical illustration; and also in that musical illustration itself. One general description would apply equally well to all those numbers, with the exception of the March to Calvary: chromatic passages with a crescendo culminating in an almost intolerable din; the fact only too obviously being that Gounod did not write to convey a certain definite impression to his hearers, but merely to provide them with a more or less satisfactory accompaniment to events which they were supposed to see before them in imagination, but which few could realize without the aid of scenic representation. As for the March to Calvary, with its wailings of women and its superficially showy handling of a noble melody, "Vexilla Regis prodeunt," it, too, might make some effect of the Meyerbeer sort on the operatic stage; while it simply exasperates with its rowdy flippancy in the concert-room. Even such mystical choruses as the opening one of Part II. suggest a scene like the first in Boito's "Mefistofele," with the angels blowing their trumpets behind masses of cloud. All these things are purely operatic in conception and execution; and most operatic of all is the chorus, "Unfold, ye portals everlasting," unless, indeed, one prefers to call it pantomime music. In the whole range of modern music I know nothing more vulgar in design, in phrase, and in orchestration, than this most pretentious, most feeble chorus, with its cheap celestial choirs and trumpets in the gallery, and its substitution of frothy vehemence for dignified power, of hysterical shrieking for the noble and stately declamation which a great composer might have given us. When we are not reminded in this way of the theatre or pantomime, it is impossible not to think of the church. The story is intoned by a couple of Narrators, a tenor and a baritone, who relieve each other at intervals, and speak together in more exciting moments. The principal characters, it is true, speak for themselves after the old plan followed by Bach in his Passions; but they intone what they have to say to an accompaniment of harmonies powerfully suggestive of the organ, and incense, and stained-glass windows. For myself, I like that kind of thing—occasionally; and certainly a sufficient number of people like it to justify one in calling "The Redemption" a popular oratorio, or opera, or pantomime; but as the personage whose early activity enabled Gounod to write a work on this subject is reported to have asked, "Is it Art?" There are, however, a number of pieces in "The Redemption" dependent neither on theatrical nor church associations, but only on sheer beauty and exquisite accuracy of expression for their effect; some of the best, curiously, being the chorales. These are not chorales in the usual meaning of the word, but simply freely designed choral pieces—sacred part-songs; and in every case they are delightful. The notion of making Jesus speak as a chorus before his earthly birth may either have been the result of Gounod's mysticism, or his stupidity, or his genius—for a fool may rush in and win where an angel would fear to tread; but whatever the cause, the first chorale itself is one of the loveliest things in all but the very best music; and the entry of the rich mass of choral tone at that point is deliciously thrilling. "Lovely appear" and "From thy love as a Father" are also fine things in their way; though their way is never quite fine enough to enable any one to call "The Redemption" a great work. It is not a great work: greatness is precisely the element that it lacks. Unlike the "Matthew" Passion

and the "John," the "Messiah" and "Parsifal," it is not fine in idea, for its idea is merely the setting forth of the historical basis and the creed of the Roman Church; and the music, which at its worst is deplorably vulgar, is at its best charged with Gounod's peculiar rich and sensuous beauty, beauty that is rich to the point of lusciousness, but never sinewy, or powerful, or in any way impressive. Like "Faust," "The Redemption" was written for musical sensualists, such as Gounod himself, who, caring little or nothing for the inner spirit of music, or for the grander beauty of perfect strength, find a supreme satisfaction in the sweetness of harmony, and melody, and instrumental and vocal tone. Moreover, much of it—as "O come to Me" and the melody "typical of the Redeemer"—is filled with the feeling to which Gounod gave complete expression in the character of Marguerite, especially as it is revealed in the garden scene in "Faust": the feeling which is simply the animal side of love—exquisitely refined, but still animal. And since we all like "Faust," and are all musical sensualists to a certain degree, it follows that in all probability we will all keep a certain liking for "The Redemption" for some time to come, provided we do not hear it too often. A Bach chorale, a Handel chorus, a Mozart or Beethoven symphony—you can spend hours on these, and be as far as you were when you commenced from exhausting the wonder and beauty of them. But Gounod's music is to them as the fountains in Trafalgar Square to the Atlantic Ocean.

I must snatch a few lines for brief mention of two very pleasant concerts before they get completely out of date. The first was given by Miss Fannie Kreuz in the small Queen's Hall on 25 March. Miss Kreuz's voice is pleasantly coloured and smooth in quality, though not fully developed; and her interpretations of songs by Brahms and Schumann were intelligent and sympathetic. Even more interesting than her singing, however, was the playing of Mr. Gompertz and his colleagues in a quartet of old Haydn and a new capriccio by Mr. Kreuz. The latter is a pretty piece of work, which would be rather more effective, I imagine, arranged for a small stringed orchestra. The other concert was given by Mr. Dolmetsch at 6 Keppel Street on 1 April; and the principal feature here was the singing of the finest air in the "John" Passion, "Lord Jesus, ah thy bitter pain!" by Mr. Henry Cooper. The song is immensely difficult and Mr. Cooper must be congratulated on the way he got through it. It is accompanied by two viols d'amour, gamba, and harpsichord. The committee of the Bach Choir discovered reasons for doubting its authenticity just in time to prevent them going to the expense of engaging players for these instruments at their last concert, which, it appears, they had thought of doing. Those who heard it last week, however, will prefer the evidence of their ears to any put forward as yet by the Bach Choir.

J. F. R.

NIETZSCHE IN ENGLISH.

"Nietzsche contra Wagner, &c." Vol. I. of the collected works of Friedrich Nietzsche. Translated by Thomas Common. London: Henry & Co. 1896.

"A Mother of Three." A new and original farce in three acts. By Clo Graves. Comedy Theatre, 8 April, 1896.

IT is with a most opportune consideration for my Easter holiday that Messrs. Henry & Co. have just issued the first volume of their translation of the works of Friedrich Nietzsche. And such a volume, too! containing everything that he wrote just before he reached the point at which Germany made up its mind that he was mad, and shut him up, both figuratively and actually. Whilst I am still at large I may as well explain that Nietzsche is a philosopher—that is to say, something unintelligible to an Englishman. To make my readers realize what a philosopher is, I can only say that I am a philosopher. If you ask incredulously, "How, then, are your articles so interesting?" I reply that there is nothing so interesting as philosophy, provided its materials are not spurious. For instance, take my own materials—humanity and the

fine arts. Any studious, timorously ambitious book-worm can run away from the world with a few shelvesful of history, essays, descriptions, and criticisms, and, having pieced an illusory humanity and art out of the effects produced by his library on his imagination, build some silly systematization of his worthless ideas over the abyss of his own nescience. Such a philosopher is as dull and dry as you please: it is he who brings his profession into disrepute, especially when he talks much about art, and so persuades people to read him. Without having looked at more than fifty pictures in his life, or made up his mind on the smallest point about one of the fifty, he will audaciously take it upon himself to explain the development of painting from Zeuxis and Apelles to Raphael and Michael Angelo. As to the way he will go on about music, of which he always has an awe-stricken conceit, it spoils my temper to think of it, especially when one remembers that musical composition is taught (a monstrous pretension) in this country by people who read scores, and never by any chance listen to performances. Now, the right way to go to work—strange as it may appear—is to look at pictures until you have acquired the power of seeing them. If you look at several thousand good pictures every year, and form some sort of practical judgment about every one of them—were it only that it is not worth troubling over—then at the end of five years or so you will, if you have a wise eye, be able to see what is actually in a picture, and not what you think is in it. Similarly, if you listen critically to music every day for a number of years, you will, if you have a wise ear, acquire the power of hearing music. And so on with all the arts. When we come to humanity it is still the same: only by intercourse with men and women can we learn anything about it. This involves an active life, not a contemplative one; for unless you do something in the world, you can have no real business to transact with men; and unless you love and are loved, you can have no intimate relations with them. And you must transact business, wirepull politics, discuss religion, give and receive hate, love and friendship with all sorts of people before you can acquire the sense of humanity. If you are to acquire the sense sufficiently to be a philosopher, you must do all these things unconditionally. You must not say that you will be a gentleman and limit your intercourse to this class or that class; or that you will be a virtuous person and generalize about the affections from a single instance—unless, indeed, you have the rare happiness to stumble at first upon an all-enlightening instance. You must have no convictions, because, as Nietzsche puts it, "convictions are prisons." Thus, I blush to add, you cannot be a philosopher and a good man, though you may be a philosopher and a great one. You will say, perhaps, that if this be so, there should be no philosophers; and perhaps you are right; but though I make you this handsome concession, I do not defer to you to the extent of ceasing to exist. After all, if you insist on the hangman, whose pursuits are far from elevating, you may very well tolerate the philosopher, even if philosophy involves philandering; or, to put it another way, if, in spite of your hangman, you tolerate murder within the sphere of war, it may be necessary to tolerate comparatively venial irregularities within the sphere of philosophy. It is the price of progress; and, after all, it is the philosopher, and not you, who will burn for it.

These are shocking sentiments, I know; but I assure you you will think them mere Sunday School commonplaces when you have read a little of Nietzsche. Nietzsche is worse than shocking, he is simply awful: his epigrams are written with phosphorus on brimstone. The only excuse for reading them is that before long you must be prepared either to talk about Nietzsche or else retire from society, especially from aristocratically minded society (not the same thing, by the way, as aristocratic society), since Nietzsche is the champion of privilege, of power, and of inequality. Famous as Nietzsche has become—he has had a great *succès de scandale* to advertise his penetrating wit—I never heard of him until a few years ago, when, on the occasion of my contributing to the literature of philosophy a minute treatise entitled "The Quintessence of Ibsenism," I was asked whether I had not been inspired by a book

called "Out at the other side of Good and Evil," by Nietzsche. The title seemed to me promising; and in fact Nietzsche's criticism of morality and idealism is essentially that demonstrated in my book as at the bottom of Ibsen's plays. His pungency; his power of putting the merest platitudes of his position in rousing, startling paradoxes; his way of getting underneath moral precepts which are so unquestionable to us that common decency seems to compel unhesitating assent to them, and upsetting them with a scornful laugh: all this is easy to a witty man who has once well learnt Schopenhauer's lesson, that the intellect by itself is a mere dead piece of brain machinery, and our ethical and moral systems merely the pierced cards you stick into it when you want it to play a certain tune. So far I am on common ground with Nietzsche. But not for a moment will I suffer any one to compare me to him as a critic. Never was there a deafer, blinder, socially and politically inept academician. He has fancies concerning different periods of history, idealizing the Romans and the Renaissance, and deducing from his idealization no end of excellences in their works. When have I ever been guilty of such professorial folly? I simply go and look at their works, and after that you may talk to me until you go black in the face about their being such wonderful fellows: I know by my senses that they were as bad artists, and as arrant intellect-mongers, as need be. And what can you say to a man who, after pitting his philosophy against Wagner's with refreshing ingenuity and force, proceeds to hold up as the masterpiece of modern dramatic music, blazing with the merits which the Wagnerian music dramas lack—guess what! "Don Giovanni," perhaps, or "Orfeo," or "Fidelio"? Not at all: "Carmen," no less. Yes, as I live by bread, as I made that bread for many a year by listening to music, Georges Bizet's "Carmen." After this one is not surprised to find Nietzsche blundering over politics, and social organization and administration in a way that would be impossible to a man who had ever served on a genuine working committee long enough—say ten minutes—to find out how very little attention the exigencies of practical action can be made to pay to our theories when we have to get things done, one way or another. To him modern Democracy, Pauline Christianity, Socialism, and so on are deliberate plots hatched by malignant philosophers to frustrate the evolution of the human race and mass the stupidity and brute force of the many weak against the beneficial tyranny of the few strong. This is not even a point of view: it is an absolutely fictitious hypothesis: it would not be worth reading were it not that there is almost as much evidence for it as if it were true, and that it leads Nietzsche to produce some new and very striking and suggestive combinations of ideas. In short, his sallies, petulant and impossible as some of them are, are the work of a rare spirit and are pregnant with its vitality. It is notable that Nietzsche does not write in chapters or treatises: he writes leading articles, leaderettes, occasional notes, and epigrams. He recognizes that humanity, having tasted the art of the journalist, will no longer suffer men to inflict books on it. And he simplifies matters, quite in the manner of the leading article writer, by ignoring things as they are, and dealing with things as it is easiest, with our prejudices and training, to think they are, except that he supplies the training and instils the prejudices himself as he goes along, instead of picking up those that lie about the street as one does in writing leaders for the daily press.

There are two reasons why I can say no more than this about Nietzsche. The first is that I am lying on a hillside in the sun, basking, not working. The second is that I must reserve some space for Miss Clo Graves's "Mother of Three" at the Comedy, which has plucked me up from that hillside by the roots.

Miss Graves has somewhat obscured my justification for introducing Nietzsche in a column devoted to the drama. That justification, of course, is that though plays have neither political constitutions nor established churches, they must all, if they are to be anything more than the merest tissue of stage effects, have a philosophy, even if it be no more than an unconscious expres-

sion of the author's temperament. Your great dramatist philosophizes quite openly: his lines become famous as aphorisms, and serve in the intercourse of philosophers as words serve in the intercourse of ordinary mortals. All the philosophers who are really alive nowadays maintain intimate relations with the fine arts: Schopenhauer and Nietzsche belong as inevitably to the critic's library as Goethe and Wagner. But I am bound to say that there is not much philosophy in Miss Clo Graves's play. However, there is plenty of fun in it, and in that fun there lurks occasionally a certain sense of the humour of indecency which drives me to conclude that Miss Clo Graves is an Irish lady. The Irish have a natural delicacy which gives them a very keen sense of indelicacy; and a good deal of the humours of "A Mother of Three" betrays the countrywoman of Sheridan and Swift rather than of Mr. Pinero. To this I can make no effective objection, since we maintain a Censor to prevent questions of sex and parentage being treated properly and seriously on the stage, and to license their improper and flippant treatment, which is at least more tolerable than no treatment of them at all. Miss Graves, struck, no doubt, by the success of "Charley's Aunt" and "The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown," in which the main joke is the dressing up of a man as a woman, has tried the effect of dressing up a woman as a man. The effect was rather unexpected. Miss Fanny Brough, whose comic force in parts belonging to her own sex no one can deny, no sooner changed her skirt for a pair of shepherd's plaid trousers and a frock coat than she suddenly became quite genuinely tragic. I have never seen the peculiar tragic feeling of impending catastrophe more unmistakably produced than in the second act, where Miss Brough, provoking roar after roar of not very refined laughter by the delivery of lines which she drove home, apparently in spite of herself, with the deadliest cleverness, seemed to be torn by a cumulative agony of rage and shame. This had so nearly passed the limit of her endurance when the curtain fell, that when it rose again for a moment in response to the applause, she seemed to have nothing of her self-possession left, except a precarious remnant of the mere habit of it. I can only compare the effect to that of Salvini's closet scene in "Hamlet." That an artist capable of producing it should have been driven to do so in the wrong place by her revolt against such a heartless misuse of her powers as the thrusting of her into what can only be described, at best, as a not very decorous piece of buffoonery, is pitiful enough; but the incident will not have been altogether an unhappy one if it opens the eyes of our dramatists to the extent to which they have been wasting on mere farce a talent which evidently has a rare intensity of emotional force behind it. Perhaps I misunderstood Miss Brough, who may have been giving us a serious artistic study of Mrs. Murgatroyd's feelings, uninfluenced by any repugnance of her own to her part; but there can be no mistake as to the effect, which might even have upset the piece if the lines had been less funny.

The play has, as its chief merit, a sustained jocularity which keeps the audience laughing pretty continuously. A good deal of the stage business is frank burlesque; and the acts end, in a rather old-fashioned way, not at any period in the action, but at some climax of absurdity from which no other extrication is possible. But the play is by no means brainless; and it is astonishing how much this small mercy counts for in the theatre.

Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Beringer, Mr. Cyril Maude, and Mr. Felix Morris are in the cast—more to its advantage than their own. The curtain-raiser is a piece called "The Guinea Stamp," by Mr. Cyril Hallward. It consists principally of cant, and is badly spoken and indifferently acted. G. B. S.

MONEY MATTERS.

BUSINESS was not brisk either in the Money Market or on the Stock Exchange owing to the interruption caused by the Easter holidays. Money was plentiful and freely procurable at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for day-to-day loans, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for short periods. Discount rates were weak; $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. was the rate for three months' bills,

$\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. [for four months', and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for six months'. The Bank rate remains at 2 per cent. The tone of the various Stock Exchange markets was strong, almost without exception. The present long account is, contrary to past experience, running smoothly to its end, and although business is still of a holiday character, and rather restricted, the general tendency is more favourable. Cheap money begins again to have its effect on all good stocks, and the constant appreciation of the gilt-edged class of them must become a very serious matter for investors in general and trustees in particular. Consols, being scarce and oversold, touched on Thursday $110\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and closed at $110\frac{3}{4}$ to $110\frac{1}{2}$ for money and $110\frac{1}{16}$ to $110\frac{0}{16}$ for the account.

The fine weather and favourable traffic receipts combined to advance the prices of Home Railways, and a good deal of speculative buying took place. There was a general rise in prices of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ since last week. The best traffic returns on the more important lines were those of the North-Eastern, the London and North-Western, the Great Western, the South-Eastern, the London and Brighton, and the London and South-Western Companies. Business was very quiet in American Railways, but prices were fairly maintained; the poor traffic return of the Louisville and Nashville line rather depressed the market on Tuesday, but later in the week there was a tendency to recover. Political and financial considerations are alternately swaying prices in Wall Street; but we are now so accustomed to these vagaries that they don't interest us any more.

The smaller applications for the new Chinese Loan were treated favourably, but the larger they were the smaller became the allotments, which in many cases did not exceed 5 per cent. The premium-hunters were thus caught "bears," and their repurchases drove the price of the loan to $2\frac{3}{4}$ premium. The closing price on Thursday was $2\frac{3}{4}$ premium. The balance of the Loan, £6,000,000, is to be issued in the course of the year. Meanwhile Germany will have to remit here for the beginning of May her share of the last loan. "Internationals" were dull at about last Saturday's price, with the exception of Spanish stock, which has not yet recovered entirely from the recent United States resolution regarding Cuba.

The hopes raised by the decline of the Argentine gold premium to 222 were again disappointed by its rise to 227 per cent., but Government stocks kept rather steady. So long as the two million tons of maize are not sold at remunerative prices, the gold premium is not likely to fall. The Chilean exchange is lower at $17\frac{1}{4}$ d. and Chilean stocks are weak. The political difference in Argentina requires a prompt settlement. The shipping season of the new coffee crop in Brazil will begin next month, and it will be interesting to watch its influence on the exchange, which is still only $8\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The reported illness of Mr. Cecil Rhodes disturbed the South African market during the past week. Transactions were not numerous, but prices were generally higher than last week, although below the best. "Westralians" were also quiet. Dr. Schmeisser's report, although it does not contain anything new or unexpected concerning them, is very interesting, and ought to be read carefully by all those who are interested or intend to take an interest in Westralian mines.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN "VENTURE" SYNDICATE.

THE DIRECTORS' REPLY.

In connexion with our references to the promotions of the West Australian "Venture" Syndicate, we have received the following letter:

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

3 PRINCES STREET, E.C., 9 April, 1896.

SIR,—Referring to the articles which have appeared in your recent issues concerning the "Venture" Syndicate, and the companies allied with it, my Directors regret to see that they have been to some extent based on inaccurate information. I am instructed by my

Directors to send you herewith an advance copy of a circular we are about to issue to our shareholders, which will give you full and precise particulars in regard to the position and condition of our various companies. I am also instructed to ask whether you will, in fairness, kindly insert the circular referred to in your next issue for the information of any of your readers who may be interested in the matter. I would also point out that the efforts of the persons connected with our groups of companies, and referred to in your last article, were solely directed to correcting the information in your possession.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

SIDNEY A. BIRD, Manager.

THE MONKHOUSE-GODDARD-STONEHAM GROUP.

Some persons are very difficult to please. We had never mentioned Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham by name in this paper when he suddenly, by means of an extremely foolish lawyer's letter, endeavoured to divert us from our inquiries into the conduct of certain public companies. We told Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham that we would not be so diverted, and we further asked him to wait until we really had labelled him; but still Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham, like some restless spirit, will not let us alone. On Saturday last we received the following impertinent letter from Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham's solicitors, Messrs. Williams & Neville, gentlemen who would seem to hold rather startling views in connexion with the art of polite letter-writing:

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

WINCHESTER HOUSE, E.C., 2 April, 1896.

SIR,—We again refer to our letter of the 25th ulto. by now requesting the name of a solicitor who will accept service of process on your behalf. Your notice of the 28 ult., so far from deterring our client from adopting legal measures, has satisfied him that no other course is open to secure protection against repetition of the scurrilous matter which has characterized your recent issues.—Yours faithfully,

WILLIAMS & NEVILLE.

We informed Messrs. Williams & Neville that our solicitors are Messrs. Renshaw, Kekewich, & Smith, of 2 Suffolk Lane, E.C., who would accept service of any writ on our behalf; but up to the time of going to press our solicitors had not received any writ from Messrs. Williams & Neville. We presume that Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham instructs Messrs. Williams & Neville to write us these letters, and we would ask him if he does not think his behaviour is just a little undignified and absurd? Mr. A. H. P. Stoneham should be content while he may; we shall doubtless deal with his promotions in due course; but at present we are very busily engaged in satisfying the requirements of some of his friends.

ASSOCIATED SOUTHERN GOLD MINES (W.A.), LIMITED.

THE "JOINT STOCK INSTITUTE" PROMOTION.

We understand that this uninviting project met with a very poor reception at the hands of the investing public, and we are not surprised to hear it. Neither are we surprised to learn that the Joint Stock Institute was long ago accepted at its true worth by some, at least, of our readers. Investors in the Syria Ottoman Railway Company and "Australia, Limited," scarcely require to be warned against promotions issuing from the inhospitable portals of the Joint Stock Institute. All that they need is that "Joint Stock Institute" promotions should, stripped of all disguise, be pointed out to them. We shall be happy from time to time to furnish our readers with this useful information.

NEW ISSUES, &c.

THE HASTINGS HARBOUR LOAN.

Although we have not had an opportunity of referring to it within the last few weeks, this fiasco will doubtless be fresh in the minds of our readers. It would appear that the promoters of this indifferent project are still holding fast to the moneys subscribed by the public. Such a proceeding is, in our opinion, not only unjustifiable, but distinctly dishonest, and we do not know how Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., the promoters' solicitors, are able to defend it. One of our readers, who had applied for £400 mortgage bonds of the Harbour Loan, wrote recently to Messrs. Ashurst, Morris,

Crisp, & Co., and expressed his surprise at finding that the amount subscribed was only £86,300, instead of £200,000; he asked if it was equitable or legal for the Corporation of Hastings to go to allotment when much less than half the amount stated to be required had been applied for, and he demanded the return of his application money. The following was Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co.'s reply, in which, it will be noticed, they wisely refrain from any expression of opinion as to the equity or legality of their clients' curious proceedings:

17 THROGMORTON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

23 March, 1896.

M. BOWIE, Esq., Bridge of Allan, N.B.

DEAR SIR,—We have yours of the 18th inst., but think your letter is written under a misapprehension. Part of the bonds will be taken by the contractors who execute the works, so that we have no doubt of the full sum required (*sic*) will be forthcoming.—Yours truly,

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP, & CO.

Another of our readers, Mr. John Humphries, of Kidderminster, who applied for £1,500 of Hastings Harbour bonds, was fortunate enough to see our criticism of the scheme in time to wire his bankers to stop payment of his cheque. This prompt action very much annoyed the promoters of the Hastings Harbour Loan, and they are now threatening Mr. Humphries with legal proceedings, with a view to obliging him to take the bonds which, under various misapprehensions, he applied for. Mr. Humphries, however, may make his mind easy upon that point: the promoters of the Hastings Harbour Loan fiasco will not be so silly as to institute any proceedings against him. It is much to be regretted that the disaffected among the bondholders have not long ere this combined to enforce these impudent promoters to disgorge.

It appears to us that we cannot deny the Directors of the West Australian "Venture" Syndicate, Limited, an opportunity of replying to our criticisms in their own way, therefore we have published the circular in question, as requested. This circular having been delivered only a short time prior to our going to press, we are compelled to defer our comments upon it until next week.

"HUMBER CYCLE" FINANCE.

The following is the letter which Mr. H. J. Lawson, the company-promoter, wrote us in reference to our promised criticisms. We referred to this letter in our two previous issues, but pressure upon our space has compelled us, until now, to hold it over for publication:—

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

40 HOLBORN VIADUCT, E.C., 25 March, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—I am informed that you intend writing adversely on the matter of the above (*sic*) Company. In case you should feel desirous of knowing the facts, I beg to inform you that the "Humber" sales up to 30 January, 1896, are £96,721, against £51,000 odd of last year. To the end of February 1896 the "Humber" sales show a total increase of 90 per cent. over that of last year. When I assisted at the formation of the "Humber" Company at the first the capital was £125,000. The usual blackmailing papers all slated it on the ground of its being over-capitalized. The dividends paid for the seasons 1889-90 were:—1889-90, 4 per cent.; 1890-91, 7½ per cent.; 1891-92, 9 per cent.; 1892-93, 10 per cent.; 1893-94, 12½ per cent.; 1894-95, 28 per cent. The reserve for depreciation, after adding £3,000 charged during the year, stood at £18,000, and the general reserve, with £12,250 added, stood at £42,250, making a total of £60,250. With reference to your remarks concerning myself, up to the present I have assisted at the formation of very few companies—I believe seven during the last ten years, only one of these having been a failure. All the rest are doing large and gradually increasing businesses. Three have earned profits to the amount of over cent. per cent. on their capital; while the shares of four have realized substantial premiums. It is usual with a certain class of paper to mention a list of Companies which have never been brought out at all in their anxiety to magnify any errors of mine. I make the foregoing remarks, not so much for publication, but in case you wish to be correct. Of course, if you

have decided already to slate the Company, I believe you will, in all fairness, insert this letter. My own view is that the cycle trade is still only at its commencement, and I am quite sure that the "Humber" Company will pay yet greater dividends than it has ever previously paid.—Yours truly,

HARRY J. LAWSON.

We can assure Mr. H. J. Lawson that it is always our earnest desire to be correct; we have no desire to do injustice to any one. At the same time, we do not see why Mr. H. J. Lawson, in his extreme anxiety for our perfect accuracy, should, either by accident or design, commit a number of curious errors of fact in dealing with the matters which we brought to his notice. We have not denied, nor do we wish to deny, that the cycle trade is at present in a flourishing condition; neither do we dispute the fact that the original "Humber" Company had in it the makings of a highly successful concern. We have never yet said one word against that Company; but we object to the subsidiary exploitations, most of which are foredoomed to failure, as their promoters well know. We also object to the system of financing which has been such an objectionable feature of the Humber Companies since Mr. H. J. Lawson became connected with them. We refer to the general "shuffling up" of the various concerns, and to the fusion of interests alleged to be for the benefit of the shareholders, but really and truly, only brought about for the purpose of re-lining the pockets of Mr. H. J. Lawson and his fellow-promoters. These remarks fully apply to the Humber & Co. (Extension) scheme, which we have upon several occasions briefly referred to. Mr. Lawson and his colleagues are the Socialists of joint-stock finance; they cannot rest; they are never satisfied except when creating some upheaval which gives them the opportunity of scrambling for other people's money. The cycle trade is good; the Humber cycles are good; but the "Humber Cycle Finance" is something to be avoided. If Mr. H. J. Lawson's Humber Companies are so sound, it would not be necessary for him to push and force the sale of their shares by newspaper advertisements drafted on "bucket-shop" principles, or by the flagrant system of newspaper puffing which has been adopted, and of which we have ample evidence. Mr. H. J. Lawson, in his letter printed above, says that he "believes" that he has only assisted in the promotion of seven companies within the last ten years, and then he calmly proceeds to refer to eight. On such a matter as this Mr. H. J. Lawson should be able to speak convincingly, but he merely hesitates a "belief." We ourselves can call to mind fourteen companies promoted by Mr. H. J. Lawson within the last eight years only, and no doubt we should find more if we took the trouble to search the records. That is a fair example of Mr. H. J. Lawson's "correctness." Another is ready to our hand in his statement that "only one" of the companies promoted by him during the last ten years has been a failure. "Only one"! What, then, would Mr. H. J. Lawson be pleased to term the Stockbroker's Banking Corporation, Limited, the British Cattle Foods Company, Limited, and Venice, Limited (all absolute failures), to say nothing of the notorious Moore and Burgess companies, and many other concerns which have been in existence for seven or eight years, and have never yet paid a farthing of dividend! And then Mr. H. J. Lawson talks of his successes! "All the rest," he says, "are doing large and gradually increasing businesses; three have earned profits to the amount of cent. per cent. upon their capital, while the shares of four have realized substantial premiums." We shall be glad to learn the names of these phenomenal enterprises, for we have not been able to discover them. If they really exist, we shall, of course, give the fact publicity, but if we do not receive evidence of their existence, we shall in our next issue print a list of what we consider Mr. H. J. Lawson's failures.

"HORSELESS CARRIAGE" ENTERPRISE.

Although Mr. H. J. Lawson has not thought proper to attempt to answer our criticisms of his "Horseless Carriage" promotions, we observe that he has eliminated from the prospectus of his "Horseless Carriage" exhibition the matter of which we complained.

REVIEWS.

A GALLERY OF LITERARY PORTRAITS.

"Critical Kit-Kats." By Edmund Gosse. London: Heinemann. 1896.

MR. EDMUND GOSSE has done a great deal of good work in criticism which, because it is never ponderous, and always interesting, is sometimes supposed to lack the solid excellence of duller and heavier work. The minor, though desirable, virtue of accuracy in details has, perhaps, been occasionally rather too little cultivated by him in the past; but after all the quick-witted peltast, or out-skirmisher, of criticism, if he lacks the painstaking erudition of the literary hoplite, has the compensating advantages of being agile instead of elephantine, of leading the way for the readers of the rising generation, and showing them the short cuts, while the heavy-armed critic, with his ponderous equipment, is dragging his slow advance along the old and beaten highroads. An instance of Mr. Gosse's agility among the foremost of the light skirmishers is his "Northern Studies," which dates back, if we mistake not, some seventeen years, and is a remarkable anticipation of and preparation for the growing contemporary interest in modern Norse literature. The fact is that while Mr. Gosse has not got either the learning or the intellectual power of Professor Dowden, or the brilliant intuition and immense knowledge of literature of Mr. Swinburne, he has, in addition to a critical sense that seldom errs, a man of the world's knowledge of the conditions of modern life, of the needs of the vast and rapidly growing public who desire culture, but, unlike Bret Harte's Western man, prefer to take it "straight with sugar," and without sugar will not take it at all. Mr. Gosse knows the capacities of his public, and with every dose of culture he supplies plenty of sugar—that is to say, he flavours his literary criticism with plenty of those accidental and personal details which are so seductive to the average reader. This knowledge of how to interest his readers is seen at its strongest in the volume under review. The literary essays of which it is composed show all Mr. Gosse's accustomed lightness and felicity in handling his materials, all his accustomed ease and charm of style, and rare lucidity in explaining himself without making too great a demand on the intellectual powers of his readers; but, besides these attractions, Mr. Gosse has deliberately added the allurements of biographical interest to purely critical, has illustrated the lives of his authors by their work and their work by their lives. The personal element, with its appeal to human curiosity, is largely blent with the literary criticism which is thus recommended to a wider audience; in other words, Mr. Gosse has discovered the secret of popularity with contemporary readers, and makes his appeal to them with a knowledge of the conditions of the task he has taken in hand which is not common and ought to ensure complete success. The conditions of our over-hurried modern life enfeeble the mental digestion, while they leave the appetite unimpaired, and information needs to be peptonized as well as sugared if the critic is to reach and influence the mass of readers. Mr. Gosse understands this fact perfectly well, and his information, which is by no means slender in amount or poor in quality, is so carefully prepared that his critical studies become as easy of assimilation and withal as appetizing as the ordinary novel. For this even the stronger reader may well be grateful; more especially when Mr. Gosse has, as in the present volume, stores of personal experience to draw upon, and a large amount of special information to convey. The title of Mr. Gosse's volume of studies is a happy one, though the form "Kit-Cat" would surely be more in accordance with the derivation of the word than the form Mr. Gosse has adopted. A Kit-Cat is a condensed portrait, or a portrait with certain limitations of size, and undoubtedly the best of Mr. Gosse's essays succeed in giving a fresh and vivid impression of the person as well as of the author, of the man as well as of his work. In other words, Mr. Gosse's portraits are works of art, unambitious and unpretentious, no doubt, but distinctly successful as literature.

The first essay in the volume is perhaps the best. It gives on the authority of Robert Browning the circumstances attending the composition of the "Sonnets from the Portuguese." Robert Browning communicated the knowledge of these circumstances directly to Mr. Gosse, on the understanding that after his own death Mr. Gosse might publish his information. This Mr. Gosse does in an essay which is not only deeply interesting from its fresh biographical details, but is full of really admirable literary criticism. Briefly, the story told by Robert Browning is this: After "the young couple" (Mr. Gosse does not need to be told that Mrs. Browning was well over forty) settled at Pisa, Mrs. Browning, one day early in 1847, came quietly behind her husband and hastily pushed a packet of papers into the pocket of his coat, telling him to read that and tear it up if he did not like it. What he read was the now celebrated sonnets, and he was at once aware of their high excellence. "I dared not reserve to myself," he said, "the finest sonnets written in any language since Shakespeare." Mrs. Browning was strongly opposed to the publication of what had been the very notes and chronicle of her betrothal. When she did at last consent, they appeared as "Sonnets by E. B. B., Reading: not for publication, 1847." The title they now bear was invented by Mr. Browning to veil the true authorship when the sonnets were published in the volumes of 1850. To this interesting history Mr. Gosse adds some of the best criticism we remember ever to have seen from his pen. Having shown what are the faults of Mrs. Browning's work in verse, he shows what was the time when she was most free from these faults and reached the zenith of her genius, and he shows the topmost point of this highest period to be the time during which Robert Browning visited her as her affianced lover. The skill with which he illustrates the sonnets by interpolating the lyrics "Question and Answer" and "Inclusions" at their proper places in the series is a happy example of sympathetic and convincing criticism.

The most interesting of the essays, the first of course excepted, are those in which Mr. Gosse is able to draw freely on his personal reminiscences of the authors whose lives and works he discusses. The essay on Christina Rossetti is a good example of the popular interest which this biographical element is able to impart to a critical appreciation. The criticism is really excellent of its kind, though it is rather excessive praise to claim for her the place in the English literature of the future that Sappho holds in the literature of Greece. Mr. Gosse misses none of the distinguishing characteristics of Christina Rossetti's poetry, and though he overestimates her sonnets, his criticism is in the main just; but he is somewhat out of sympathy with the religious element which runs so strongly through all Christina Rossetti's work. Yet, thanks to the skill with which he works up and interweaves his personal reminiscences, his essay is certain of a popularity with the general public, which the stronger work on the same subject of a deeper mind, the work of our first critic of poetry, Mr. Theodore Watts, could command only with the comparatively scanty, if more select, audience of genuine lovers of literature. Genuine lovers of literature, however, as well as the general public, will find Mr. Gosse's essay suggestive and stimulating; for his criticism is that of a skilled versifier and a sympathetic and well-read student of literature.

The last essay—that on Stevenson—is very properly entitled "Personal Memories"; and, thanks to the fulness of Mr. Gosse's knowledge and the felicity of his use of it, the essay is the most readable, and is sure to be one of the most popular in the book. Small as is the space at Mr. Gosse's disposal, he succeeds in painting a lifelike portrait, which, if it be a "Kit-Cat," is certainly quite as much a work of art as a larger picture. The criticism of Stevenson's work—where criticism comes in—is admirably just; but it is the personal element, the reminiscences, that give the essay its undoubted charm. He succeeds in painting Stevenson not only as an accomplished writer, but as a most attractive and unselfish personality. After the reminiscences of Stevenson the most interesting semi-critical, semi-biographical articles are those on Lord de Tabley and Walter Pater. Lord de

Tabley, whom Tennyson spoke of as "Faunus, a woodland creature," was a retiring genius who did not receive in his lifetime one-half of the recognition he deserved.

The article on Walter Pater is stronger in the personal element than the critical, and this will certainly be news to many: "When I had known him first he was a pagan, without any guide but that of the personal conscience; years brought gradually with them a greater and greater longing for the supporting solace of a creed. His talk, his habits, became more and more theological; and it is my private conviction that, had he lived a few years longer, he would have endeavoured to take orders and a small college living in the country." This view may be correct, but we certainly saw no sign of it in intercourse with him up to 1891. While agreeing with Mr. Gosse's criticism on Pater's style and methods of work, we doubt whether it was really "the perennial conflict" "between his exquisite sense for corporeal beauty and his tendency to ecclesiastical symbol and theological dogma" which was the secret that made Pater's character "so difficult for others to elucidate, and in some measure so painful and confusing for himself"; but undoubtedly Mr. Gosse succeeds in throwing light on some features of a strange and complex personality, little known and still less understood. The essay on Whitman attempts to explain the extraordinary contradictions of the critics who have at different times dealt with the writer of "Leaves of Grass." "Whitman is mere *bathybius*; he is literature in the condition of protoplasm—an intellectual organism so simple that it takes the instant impression of whatever mood approaches it. Hence the critic who touches Whitman is immediately confronted with his own image stamped upon that viscid and tenacious surface. He finds, not what Whitman has to give, but what he himself has brought." This is certainly highly ingenious and suggestive criticism, but Mr. Gosse goes too far in thinking that it accounts for all the difficulties in the criticism of Whitman. The other portraits, if somewhat more sketchy, are excellent; for Mr. Gosse, while always appreciative of good work, never abandons the critical attitude.

A DUPE'S DIARY.

"Old Diary Leaves: the True Story of the Theosophical Society." By Henry Steel Olcott, President-Founder of the Society. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1895.

COLONEL OLCOTT is an unconscious humourist, and whatever charm his fanciful book possesses is entirely due to the solemnity with which he swallows and brings up the most impossible yarns. Beside him a gudgeon were abstemious and Baron Munchausen a grave and reverend historian. The purport of the book, he says, is "to tell the story of the birth and progress of the Theosophical Society," and, did it stop there, we might incontinently hurl it into our waste-paper basket. But his cameos of the character of that female Cagliostro, Madame Blavatsky, and his exposition of his own gullibility afford delicious human documents. The drawback is that there remains too much about the T. S. and too little about H. P. B. For the benefit of the profane, be it stated that T. S. stands for Theosophical Society, and H. P. B. for Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, and that Colonel Olcott (why not H. S. O.?) makes a practice of alluding to them by these esoteric initials. It is a pity that this spirit of abridgment has not been adapted to the book as a whole, and we commend the idea to Mr. Stead when he shall have exhausted his penny indigests of British Classics.

H. S. O. said, "Permettez moi, Madame," and gave H. P. B. a light for her cigarette. Thus the acquaintance of the two founders of the T. S. "began in smoke," but H. S. O. thinks "it stirred up a great and permanent fire," instead of ending also in smoke. The progress of the ascendancy of her strong mind over his weaker intellect is artistic in its development. She perceived that Spiritualism was the sort of foolishness to appeal to his natural folly, so she adapted her "miracles" to inducing and confirming his faith therein,

though she herself believed in it not at all. When she had led him to the proper pitch of credulity, she threw off the mask, and admitted that she had only intended Spiritualism as a training for the still more incredible verities she had to transmit from mysterious Mahatmas to the world. And before long she had reduced him to the position of her dupe and willing slave. The book breathes a superstitious veneration for the departed prophetess; but every now and then, whether consciously or unconsciously, H. S. O. allows resentments to peep out to her detraction. In what he provokingly styles a "Foreword" he alludes to "her transparent faults"; he depicts her as a violent woman, given over to violent language—"she swore," he says, "like the army in Flanders"—as the victim of "every specious wretch who came and lied to her," as in sympathy with criminals and freethinkers; he tells us that "she certainly had none of the superficial attributes one might have expected in a spiritual teacher"; and he exposes her sincerity to the gravest doubt.

He cannot give her a character for veracity, and seeks to palliate her shortcomings by saying that "she chose as the easiest way out of the difficulty" (of speaking the truth) "to contradict herself, and throw the minds of her friends into confusion." To gain her own ends, she bamboozled all her disciples. "I think I could name a number of women," he says mournfully, "who hold her letters, saying that they are to be her successors in the T. S., and twice as many men whom she declared her 'only real friends and accepted chélas.' I have a number of such certificates, and used to think them treasures until, after comparing notes with third parties, I found that they had been similarly encouraged, and I saw that all her eulogies were valueless. . . . I should not say that she was either loyal or staunch. We were to her, I believe, nothing more than pawns in a game of chess." And she never kept secrets, "even the most compromising ones." Yet he calls her a "mental colossus," to have known whom "was a liberal education," and whom it was impossible not to love and revere.

Like most religious dupes, H. S. O. was most influenced by H. P. B.'s claim to perform miracles, although, reading between the lines, it is easy to see that he knew she would cheat him if she had the chance. For instance, one day that she was trying to precipitate a picture out of space, she asked him to fetch her a glass of water. Like the dutiful son in the parable, he said "I go," but went not. She detected his suspicions, and gave him "one angry glance," and "brought down her clenched fist" on a piece of blotting-paper when, hey presto! there was the picture. Of course, this was mere conjuring. Indeed, all her "miracles" are capable of explanation by expertness either as a conjurer or as a hypnotist. She did nothing which would surprise an Indian juggler—indeed, she never accomplished anything half so artistic as the mango-trick—and her "miracles" could not survive any test which would dispose of his tricks. The ringing of mysterious "fairy bells," which H. S. O. was unable to detect, beneath her skirts; the exuding of perfumes from the palm of her hand at will; the "creation" of Oriental pipes by "dropping her hand down beside her arm-chair"; the invoking of elementals in the shape of white butterflies; the discovery of Chinese drawings in "the drawer where she kept her writing-paper"; and the production of "a large toy-sheep mounted on wheels" for the pacification of a noisy child—all these read like the commonest jugglery; and when H. S. O. informs us, with a clatter of italics and notes of exclamation, that to his positive knowledge the *large toy-sheep* had not been there the moment before! we are constrained to ask how he can be so positive in the assertion of a negative. On the other hand, such performances as displaying £10,000 worth of gems when she was practically penniless, and inhibiting H. S. O.'s organs of sight from perceiving H. P. B.'s presence when she was within two paces of him in the room, are not impossible of explanation by the theories of hypnotic illusion. This, indeed, H. S. O. admits. "I have seen such things done, and can do them myself," he tells us. "One can not only cover a little diamond with the mask of invisibility, but a man, a roomful of people, a house, a tree, rock,

road, mountain—anything in short: hypnotic suggestion includes seemingly limitless possibilities."

Indeed, H. P. B. herself told a story illustrating this power. She was travelling in the desert "with a certain Coptic white magician, and, camping one evening, expressed the ardent wish for a cup of good French *café au lait*. He went to the baggage-camel, drew water from the skin, and after a while returned, bringing in his hand a cup of smoking, fragrant coffee mixed with milk. H. P. B. thought this, of course, was a phenomenal production, since her companion was a high adept and possessed of very great powers. So she thanked him gratefully, and drank, and was delighted, and declared she had never tasted better coffee at the Café de Paris. The magician said nothing, but merely bowed pleasantly and stood as if waiting to receive back the cup. H. P. B. sipped the smoking beverage, and chatted merrily, and—but what is this? The coffee has disappeared and naught but plain water remains in her cup! It never was anything else; she had been drinking and sipping the *Māya* of hot, fragrant Mocha." Except that the illusion was performed in silence, H. S. O. admits that it was such as "may be seen at any travelling mesmeriser's show where paraffine oil is made to taste like chocolate and vinegar like honey."

The reflection induced by the relation of H. P. B.'s miracles is that, if she possessed the power of creating whatever she chose, she was foolish to expose herself to money difficulties. Even when she could show £10,000 worth of jewels she could not find a pawnbroker to advance enough for the necessities of life, and at one time she could only keep body and soul together by making cravats or artificial flowers for "a kind-hearted Hebrew shopkeeper," whom it must, indeed, have required magic to unearth. It is true that H. P. B. said the Mahatmas "were the guardians over untold wealth of mines and buried treasures and jewels," but she had plenty of excuses when treasures were not forthcoming; for instance, they were "so befouled with the aura of crime that they would breed fresh crimes and more direful human misery."

Credulous persons desirous of initiation in magic will not glean much practical information from this dupe's diary. It is true that we have some hints about the projection of the double, as to which H. S. O. lays claim to be an expert. But the hints say little more than that, if you exercise your will hard enough, your astral body should project itself—the corollary of which is that if you do not succeed, it is because you have not exercised your will with sufficient vehemence. And this must serve to cover a multitude of failures. The following recipe, culled from a book with the absurdly terse title "*Pāncharātra Pādmāsāhita Charyāpāda*," chapter xxiv., verses 131-140, may, however, satisfy some illegitimate aspirations: "I now tell thee, o Lotus-born, the method by which to enter another's body (*Pindam*). . . . The corpse to be occupied should be fresh, pure, of middle age, endued with all good qualities, and free from the awful diseases resulting from sin. It should be laid out in some secluded place, with its face turned towards the sky and its legs straightened out. Beside its legs, shouldst thou seat thyself in a posture of yoga, but previously, o four-faced one, shouldst thou with fixed and mental concentration, have long exercised this yoga power." This is done by concentrating the *jīva* as *hamsa*, or silvery spark of the brain, and ejecting it through the nostrils into space. First send it to the height of a palm-tree, then five miles, "practising daily until perfection be reached." Then "introduce it into the chosen corpse, by the path of the nostrils, until it reaches the empty solar-plexus" (wherever that may be), "there establishes its residence, reanimates the deceased person, and causes him to be seen as though 'risen from the dead.'" Could anything be more lucid or facile of performance?

This recipe is, in fact, a fair sample of the whole book's claim to serious consideration. Save for the insight it affords us into the queer character of an ingenious impostor, it is but a tissue of childish ineptitudes and absurd bombast. We are told of H. P. B.'s failure at farming, and then "three months later she met me in the Vermont ghostland, and the wheels of our war-chariot began rumbling prophetically through

the lowest levels of the Akash!" Which may or may not have consoled for the failure to grow turnips. And again, "We used to speak of ourselves as the Theosophical Twins, and sometimes as a trinity; the chandelier hanging overhead making the third of the party; frequent allusions to *both these pleasantries* occur in our Theosophical correspondence; and on the day when she and I were leaving our dismantled apartments in New York the last thing we did was to say, with mock seriousness, 'Farewell, old chandelier; silent, light-giving, unchanging friend and confidant!'" But H. S. O. is still at large.

When H. P. B. was possessed by a supernatural being, who helped her to write her book "*Isis Unveiled*," H. S. O. said, "Well, Old Horse, let us get to work!" The supernatural being thought this a familiar mode of address, and next minute H. S. O. "was blushing for shame, for the blended expression of surprise and startled dignity that came into the face, showed" with whom he had to deal.

"To kill the Theosophical Society," we read in the "Foreword," "it is first necessary to prove its declared objects hostile to the public welfare, the teachings of its spokesmen pernicious and demoralizing. It being impossible to do either the one or the other, the world takes the Society as a great fact." But the world does nothing of the kind, and, for all practical purposes, the T. S. has been killed long ago by a deluge of ridicule.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE NATIONAL DEFENCE.

"The Volunteers and the National Defence." By Spenser Wilkinson. Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. 1896.

THIS little book is practically a reprint of an essay which was published in 1891 in a volume entitled "*The Volunteer Question*." Its reappearance comes opportunely at a moment when we are perforce obliged to look closely into the state of our defences, and when the recent change in the leadership of the army is a guarantee that suggestions towards improvement will meet with every attention and encouragement. Mr. Wilkinson writes with a view to giving those unaccustomed to study the subject closely some general idea of the processes of modern war, and his name and known ability are sufficient to give assurance that his explanations will be well thought out and clearly expressed. Also, the opinion of one who has served with the Volunteers and sympathizes with their difficulties, and has given many years to the study of the methods of foreign armies, is well worthy of attention. Mr. Wilkinson considers that the two changes upon which the whole future of our citizen army depends are a "rational system of selection according to fitness among the officers, with special care in the appointment of commanding officers, and the acquisition, at the public expense, of sufficient and accessible spaces for musketry practice and for manœuvring." To our mind Mr. Wilkinson hardly puts the former condition sufficiently strongly. The greatest difficulty connected with the Volunteer question lies not in the selection of officers for commands, but in finding an adequate number of officers of any pretensions to capacity for our battalions. With a sufficient supply of fairly good officers our Volunteers would, after they had been even a fortnight in the field under military law, be extremely valuable in spite of all the disadvantages they at present labour under. In a few months, with really capable energetic men to lead and educate them, we doubt whether any of our infantry would be superior to some of them, at least in fighting on the defensive. The material is excellent; indeed, the average intelligence and physique of the men are far superior to those of any of our regular battalions; and, in fact, our Volunteers represent the brains, and blood, and sinews of the conquering British race, which has spread itself out over half the globe, far more truly than do the recruits who flock to the colours, usually because they are too inferior, in one respect or another, to find employment in civil life. When we have got enough officers for our Volunteers we can set to

work to promote the most deserving from a military point of view, but the real crux is how to secure an adequate supply, and Mr. Spenser Wilkinson has hardly faced that difficult problem in these pages. We cordially agree with him as to the necessity for manœuvres and musketry practice too, but we have some grounds for hoping that these needs will be satisfied in the near future, whereas in the matter of officers the prospect is by no means reassuring. And we would emphasize a third necessity in addition to those upon which our author lays particular stress. We must have more Field Artillery. We have not enough yet even for our regular troops; we want enough to support our Auxiliary forces too; and we ought to have a reserve of guns to fall back upon to replace losses, or guns damaged during a protracted war. During the comparatively short war of 1870-71 some 200 German guns became unserviceable simply from wear and tear. We ought to remember this, and our Volunteers should realize, too, that a French or German *corps d'armée* will be supported by 120 cannon, and that our infantry should not be asked to face perhaps the picked troops of the Continent with a less proportion by their side. Until the country fully recognizes the existence of this huge defect in our armour, and insists on having it made good, it cannot be said that our home defence is in a satisfactory condition, and it is for writers such as Mr. Spenser Wilkinson to take care that this deficiency is not forgotten.

For the rest, speaking generally, we consider that the suggestions put forward in these pages are both reasonable and well considered. It is certainly a mistake that the brigadiers who now are at the head of our Volunteer brigades are often rather ornamental than useful. Men in such a position should be capable of teaching those whom they may one day have to lead in war, and no officers but those whose knowledge is equal to the task should be selected for such positions. If a man knows himself he can teach others. If he does not know his business, he should not be placed at the head of a body of men who are almost universally keen and eager soldiers when once they don their uniform. The essential point is, as our author well observes, not the regulation of details by a rigid code, but "the choice for the posts of authority of men whose judgment will enable them to guide the work towards its goal—readiness for war—while bearing in mind the peculiar limitations to which Volunteer service is subject."

SEA-WEEDS.

"An Introduction to the Study of Sea-weeds." By George Murray, F.L.S. With 8 coloured Plates and Illustrations in the Text. London: Macmillan. 1895.

MR. GEORGE MURRAY, than whom there is no greater authority on the subject, has written a fascinating volume on the harvest of the "unvintageable sea." Sea-weeds are abundant round our coasts between the limits of high and low tides, and at such easy depths as may be reached conveniently by the amateur dredger. The enthusiast requires little more than an indiarubber sponge-bag, a marine alpenstock with a chisel at one end and a net at the other, to collect the littoral forms. A simple dredge, made like the letter A, with weights at the ends of the legs, and stout fish-hooks tied to the cross-bar, will capture the shallow-water forms. For the interesting microscopic weeds that drift on the surface of the seas, Mr. George Murray recommends a simple device, invented by his namesake of the "Challenger." The collector must go down to the sea in steam-ships, and hang a muslin-bag over the inlet-pipe. The sea-water will run through the muslin, leaving behind it the minute weeds of the surface-water. When it comes to the identification of the specimens, Nature proves kinder to the young naturalist than is her wont; for she has painted the great groups of sea-weeds with different pigments, and, with a few minor exceptions, extended investigation has not upset the simple division into olive-brown, red, and green, and blue-green weeds. Green is the fundamental colour in all of them, being due to the presence of chlorophyll, the pigment by which plants

are able to use the radiant energy of sunlight. In the depths of the sea, beyond the reach of sunlight, weeds do not grow; but Mr. Murray mentions a curious case of an Arctic weed that grows and multiplies all through the darkness of the Arctic winter; while a single microscopic form has been reported from oceanic depths. It has been suggested that the latter obtained its supply of light from the phosphorescent emanations of deep-sea animals, but Mr. Murray prefers the rationalistic explanation that it was an unfortunate immigrant, swept into alien regions by a downward current.

The colours, other than green, possessed by sea-weeds are in addition to the green, and treatment with fresh-water frequently dissolves out the extra pigment, leaving behind the primal green. "As a general rule the inshore weeds, near high-water mark, are green in colour like the land vegetation, and lower down between tide-marks there is a belt of olive forms sheltering red plants beneath them. Where rocks overhang the bottom, and in small pools, these red forms also occur at this level. At extreme low-water mark and beyond it are found the brown tangles sheltering red forms again, while at the lowest depths of plant life in the sea the red forms occur without shelter." As light, in penetrating water, is deprived first of all the rays which are most useful to plants in their business of assimilating carbon, Mr. Murray suggests that the additional pigments may compensate for this alteration in quality of the light.

Mr. Murray explains the readiest way of mounting sea-weeds on paper. We think, however, that he might have been more severe on the collector who is content with dried specimens. The most interesting, and many of the most characteristic, features of the different groups can be examined only when the specimens have been preserved without drying. The author describes some of the more elaborate methods of preservation; he might have added an account of the most recent, and in many respects most satisfactory, method. It is necessary only to add to the sea-water containing the specimens a small quantity of the substance known as formol or formic aldehyde. The microscopic structure and the living appearance may thus be preserved almost indefinitely.

In his systematic account of the different groups Mr. Murray explains carefully the curious and animal-like modes of reproduction so common among seaweeds. One of the simplest of these methods may be observed with ease in the case of the common "fucus," an olive-brown sea-weed, the fronds of which are buoyed in the water by numerous little bladders of air. From tiny apertures disposed on the ends of branches, numberless little heavy egg-cells are rolled out into the water. From other apertures, sometimes on the same plant, more often on different plants, a still greater number of much smaller cells are discharged, each of them being provided with a red eye-spot and a pair of rowing bristles. The egg-cells discharge a fragrant substance, which attracts the roving, motile cells, one of which enters and fuses with each egg-cell, and a new plant grows from the fertilized cell. The variety of the modes of reproduction are among the most striking characters of sea-weeds, and with the aid of Mr. Murray's book and an ordinary microscope, the collector will be provided with an interest far surpassing that of mere naming and collecting.

THEOLOGY THEN AND NOW.

"Wholesome Words. Doctrinal Sermons by the late Professor Heurtley." Edited by Professor Ince. London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1896.

"The Beatitudes." By Canon Eyton. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, & Co. 1895.

THE last words of Professor Heurtley close a chapter in theological thought; and they should be read, because devout Englishmen, born in the days of Buonaparte, mostly thought thus; and these are all vanished now, though Professor Ince, because he tends the graveyard of these dead theologies, fondly believes himself to continue the succession. About Professor Heurtley himself there was much to love and admire. He was guileless and quiet, and spoke with

the gentle voice and plaintive pathetic tones which mark the lost causes and the beaten races of men. They spoke with care in his day, and fortified their opinions with instances. Hooker and Vossius, Waterland, that most unreadable of authors, Ussher, Bishop Bull, and the learned Bingham—mighty shades!—stood round them while they wrote; and not these alone, but greater names still, give some countenance to their unconvincing tenets. These sermons, for instance, are not brilliant, but they are grave and "painful," as one used to call it, and free from wrath and clamour. They have much modesty, almost too much for us moderns, for when the Professor is upon some line of thought which promises much, when he is almost upon some rich quarry, as it would seem, he stops and falters and veils his eyes and pries no further. He expounds, for instance, the great Doctrine of the Atonement, about which his generation thought and wrote much, exclusively much, and which our Doctors conspire to ignore. The reader follows him eagerly, until the first great difficulty comes. "*Cur inquis per sanguinem, quod potuit facere per sermonem?*" and the old evasive reply is given, in St. Bernard's words, "*Ipsium interroga. Mihi scire licet quod ita. Cur ita, non licet.*" This is all very well and reverent, but we want to know how such high themes, of which the *cur* is not forthcoming, touch human life and affect human thought fruitfully. To these questions this race of men gave no reply. They were always weak and barren too, when they spoke in terms of the concrete. Grant that the worship of the altar is apt to be exaggerated; allow that worship runs somewhat into rapture and that even great theologians may be inharmoniously emphatic; and then you have granted what the Professor claims without conceding to him the dull and dangerous admission that the Christian Church warms her hands at a painted fire and banquets upon the mere description of a feast. It is the human element which these men lacked, and the lack of which puzzled them. Heurtley could not understand the sacrament of penance, because he did not understand the social nature of sin. He did not conceive of sin as an offence against the solidarity of mankind, but only as a breakage of the rules of an unseen Ruler. These men's conceptions may have been partial, but they gave some restful dignity to life, which we now look at rather wistfully.

With Canon Eyton we have the more congenial modern spirit, scattering the past about, a little too unceremoniously. His talk is of politics and stage-plays, of practical virtues and burning topics, of war and vivisection, of toleration and the "Spectator"; and he deals hasty kicks at "barren asceticism," "the self-inflicted scourge, and the secret macerations of an unhealthy egoism." He is all for manliness and common-sense and that species of Christianity which, "perhaps because it is not intellectual, is called muscular." He harps much upon the human element, bustles and is burly; has no time to read, considers it fastidious to trim his style or uncrumple his metaphors. For instance, something or other—it is impossible to say what—"has an affinity with goodness, it discovers it with the scent of a hound, it goes beneath unpromising manners and uncouth appearances, it fastens on the gold underneath the dross, and its delight therein is like the delight of a man in a found treasure" (p. 63). The author's history is as confused as his metaphors. He speaks at random about Laud, about the influence of St. Jerome's matrimonial notions, which by no means "entered into the life blood of the Christian Church," but were accounted as on the verge of heresy. The Franciscans of all people "tore the Passion of Christ, as it were, out of the rest of His Manhood, and fixed men's minds upon it," and thus apparently "obscured" the human side of our Lord! A hundred faults of hurry and ignorance mar these hasty pages. Both the harmony of thought and the deeper problems of the spiritual life are all unattempted. Yet Canon Eyton is a popular preacher; and no doubt his publishers take any jottings he chooses to make, without any ado, for the public buy him. His books have a merry run, like those of Dr. Cumming, and they tarry awhile in men's hearts before they return to the paper mill. The reason of this is not far to seek. The author, in spite of his failings, insists upon

the identity of life and thought. He does not box off theology from practice. His sermon smells of no lamp, unless perhaps of the street lamp. What knowledge he has of God is derived from the rough-and-ready plan of living cheek-by-jowl with Heaven's unprofitable servants. He has a wholesome horror of mawkish, unreal, or second-hand sentiment; and, what is more, he does not bisect human life into dust and divinity. "The body is not mere matter as opposed to the spirit: it is not a clog, but a means of self-expression which sometimes seems to hinder, but at other times to intensify, the most spiritual feelings." This is his predominant note, and a good one too. But there seems no reason in the nature of things why the theology of to-day should not be expressed with the care and calm of the men of yesterday. A living buttermilk is, we grant, worth more than a dead Archimedes: but surely others, besides buttermen, may be alive, and our religious thoughts should be so well expressed that our grandsons might not disdain to hear them. The worst of this modern theology is that it has no consciousness of these coming quizzical, critical grandsons. Canon Eyton must forgive us. We meant to praise him—

At est truculentior atque
Plus æquo liber: simplex fortisque habeatur.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"History of the Church Catholic." By the Rev. A. H. Hore, M.A. London and Oxford: James Parker & Co. 1895.

MR. HORE says in his Preface that his work is a contribution in the cause of Church Defence. These are his very first words, so that the fault would appear to be with the reader if he resents any passages here and there as wanting in the cool historical spirit. The book is not written for those who study history for its own sake. It is avowedly a support for the Anglican Church against the attacks of its enemies. The Anglican Church is not Protestant, but Catholic; there has been no break in continuity; at the Reformation the Church only repudiated "Papal claims, not the Primacy of the Pope," and got "rid of several customs which were mediæval and not Catholic." One sentence will sufficiently show the spirit of the book. After Elizabeth's time, Mr. Hore says, "the battle was with Nonconformity, between Catholicism and Protestantism, and the victory was assured to the former, because it is the religion of Christ, of His Apostles, and of the Church from the earliest and purest days of Christianity." And just because he is frank, we doubt whether Mr. Hore has been politic. Avowed propaganda is powerful and attractive in a pamphlet, in a work which only takes cognizance of such facts as are strictly to the point, and in which the reader feels the pleading in every page. But Mr. Hore has written a long book (650 pages) dealing with a large number of facts, so that even the least pedantic is liable to fall into reading, unconsciously may be, with the historic spirit, and then he is likely to be irritated by the undisguised appearances of the writer's unhistorical motive. The study of history is not so important as salvation; but, for all that, history has its dignity which nothing should touch. We doubt, in fact, whether Mr. Hore has not put so much history into his History as calls for an appearance of the aloofness which he frankly states is not to his purpose. Whatever this objection may be worth, it leads us on to a graver doubt of Mr. Hore's policy. His book leaves the reader somewhat out of patience with Churches altogether. The Church seems to have begun at once with squabbles and pettinesses; it went on with not a few crimes, and proceeded through a veritable sea of troubles, chances, and muddles peculiarly undivine. In the course of his technical defence of his own denomination, Mr. Hore may have done a disservice to the Churches of all denominations, and even in the eyes of unbelievers to Christianity itself. Humanly speaking, the history of the Church, separated as much as possible from the personal history of her saints, is not edifying; it can hardly be expected to strengthen faith, except indirectly. God works in mysterious ways—that, we fancy, would be the obvious text for a sermon preached on the facts in this book. And after reading it, most devout Christians of to-day would, we think, praise God that, in spite of everything, the realities of the religion they practise are still left to them. They would be all the more inclined to cling to the belief that the spirit of their faith has come to them by some closer means than is here shown, by a directer path than lies through councils and reformations. This is not to be in love with any Church, least of all the oldest. However, it is really a question of times and seasons, and Mr. Hore may be right when he sees as the most dangerous enemies on the horizon those persons who have doubts as to the continuity of the Anglican Church.

We have also received "The Medical Register" and "The Dentists' Register" for 1896 (Spottiswoode); "The Year-Book

of Treatment for 1896" (Cassell); "The Handbook of Jamaica for 1896," compiled by S. P. Musson and T. Laurence Roxburgh (Stanford); "The Clergy Directory, 1896" (J. S. Phillips); "London Diocese Book, 1896" (Rivington); Sir Thomas Browne's "Hydrotaphia" and "Garden of Cyrus," edited by the late W. A. Greenhill, M.D., and "Poems, Religious and Devotional," from the works of Whittier, in Macmillan's "Golden Treasury Series"; Vols. III. and IV. of Green's "History of the English People" (1399-1540 and 1540-1593), and Matthew Arnold's "Discourses in America" in the "Eversley Series" (Macmillan); "Due Preparations for the Plague," by Defoe, edited by George A. Aitken, with Illustrations by J. B. Yeats (Dent); cheap edition of "Obiter Dicta," 2nd Series (Stock); Vols. I. and II. of Kegan Paul's "Avon Shakspeare," and Vol. I. of Newnes' Shakspeare, plain texts; "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater," with Introduction and Notes by Mark Hunter, B.A. (Bell); "Poems by William Arnold" (Routledge); new and revised edition of Sir William Muir's "The Coran" (S.P.C.K.); "Ecclesiasticus," edited with Introduction and Notes by Richard G. Moulton, in Macmillan's "Modern Reader's Bible"; "Reynard the Fox," edited with Introduction and Notes by Joseph Jacobs, and illustrated by W. Frank Calderon (Macmillan); "The Vicar of Wakefield," with thirty-two Illustrations by Mulready (Bliss, Sands); "A Laodicean," Vol. XI. of the Wessex Novels, by Thomas Hardy (Osgood); new edition of "The Glaciers of the Alps," by Tyndall (Longmans); popular edition of "On Seedlings," by Sir John Lubbock (Kegan Paul); "Antiquarian Essays," contributed to the "Saturday Review" by John Taylor, with Memoir by William George (for Subscribers, Bristol: W. Crofton Hemmons).

REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

"BLACKWOOD'S" is interesting as usual. Especially notable is the article on "Recent Home Politics in Germany," a clear and well-put review of Christian Socialism and its dealings with Social Democracy and with the Anti-Semites. We only wish the account of the religious difficulty in the schools could have been fuller.

"Chapman's Magazine" has taken a brighter turn. It is a good number this month, better, as far as our recollection goes, than any since the first. John Oliver Hobbes begins her serial delightfully. These few chapters are pleasant to read, chiefly because one recognizes that the author means something by every sentence she writes—a rare quality. What she says she says on purpose, and that makes a reader feel that he has a friendly ally in the author, friendly because bent on entertaining him. The short stories are mostly in a vein of comedy, and this is a relief after the tragedy in a few pages, so apt to be lumpy and troublesome. The prettiest thing in "Harper's" is in small print in the "Editor's Drawer" at the end, as we fancy it was also in the March number, a slight piece of nonsense and charming. Mr. Smalley contributes an interesting sketch of Lowell's more intimate life in London. Even the cleverest Frenchmen will have to see to their reputation if the four war posters reproduced in the "Century" are at all typical of what the Japanese are doing in this branch of art. The designs must look splendid on a wall, and they are very witty—in fact, they fully come up to the standard one would expect from Japanese posters. Booth's flight after his assassination of Lincoln is accurately chronicled in an illustrated article by Mr. Victor Mason. Mr. Austin Dobson, in "Longman's" puts together a quaint story from the autobiography of Thomas Gent, a printer of the eighteenth century. We cannot help wishing that Mr. Whishaw had left out the two murderous episodes in his appreciative account of the winter's day in a pine-forest. His description of the silly hare is admirable; the helpless creature was so obviously intended to be the dinner of the fox who was complacently trotting in his tracks that it seems a pity the wily red-coat should have been ruthlessly turned into a rug for the drawing-room. The incredible story of Lady Hester Stanhope is well told in "Temple Bar." A writer in the "Cornhill" is inclined to be moral and otherwise disappointing in the treatment of a great theme, popular songs.

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The Editor cannot undertake to return rejected Communications. He must also entirely decline to enter into correspondence with writers of MSS. sent in and not acknowledged.

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Every Candidate is required to apply to the Registrar (University of London, Burlington Gardens, London, W.) for a Form of Entry not less than five weeks before the commencement of the Examination.

ARTHUR MILMAN, M.A., LL.D., Registrar.

April 7, 1896.

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2. A SCHOLARSHIP of £75 for One Year to the best Candidate in Biology (Animal and Vegetable) and Physiology who is under Twenty-five years of age.

Candidates for these two Scholarships must not have entered to the Medical or Surgical Practice of any London Medical School.

3. A SCHOLARSHIP of £150 and the Preliminary Scientific Exhibition of £50 each, tenable for One Year, in Physics, Chemistry, Vegetable Biology, and Animal Biology. Candidates for these must be under Twenty years of age, and must not have entered to the Medical or Surgical Practice at any Medical School.

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The successful Candidates in all cases will be required to enter to the full course at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in the October succeeding the Examination.

For full particulars apply to Dr. T. W. SHORE, Warden of the College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

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Address, Captain J. ROBERTSON, Bursar, Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancashire.

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Advantage will be taken of this special opportunity to enable British, colonial, and foreign manufacturers and patentees of motor carriages, vehicles, cycles, and motors, whether propelled by oil, steam, electricity, compressed air, or otherwise, to display their productions and inventions for the inspection of the general public, with a view of giving, by means of examples and the daily practical demonstration of steering power and speed tests, an interesting illustration more especially of the capabilities of the new motor car industry.

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SECTION 6.—Apparatus for Aërial Navigation through the agency of motors.

SECTION 7.—Examples of Carriages and Vehicles not self-propelled.

SECTION 8.—Cycles, not self-propelled, which embody some novel principle of construction.

SECTION 9.—Road Maps, Hotel and Railway Guides, and Books of Views for the use of Tourists.

SECTION 10.—Knapsacks, Portmanteaus, Cooking Appliances, Tents, Picnic Baskets, and other Tourists' Conveniences.

SECTION 11.—Launches, Yachts, and Boats propelled by—

1. Steam.

2. Oil.

3. Electricity.

4. Compressed Air.

SECTION 12.—Lamps and Approach Signals, as applied to Carriages and other road vehicles, and to Launches, Yachts, and Boats.

SECTION 13.—Watches, Clocks, Compasses, Pedometers, and other Travellers' Requisites.

SECTION 14.—Stationary Engines, Dynamos, and Motors.

SECTION 15.—Models of Inventions, working and otherwise, in connection with the foregoing.

EXHIBITION SPACE.—The floor area of the special buildings will be allotted at a charge of 5s. per square foot. The walls at the sides and ends of the buildings provide for exhibiting space of 9 feet above the floor. This wall area will also be allotted at a charge of 5s. per square foot.

LIABILITY OF EXHIBITORS.—Exhibitors will incur no liability for expenses in connexion with the General Administration of the Exhibition, beyond the agreed charges for space.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN "VENTURE" SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

3 Princes Street, London, E.C.,
11th April, 1896.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE WEST
AUSTRALIAN VENTURE SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

GENTLEMEN,—Although you have had repeated evidence in the announcements of the various Sub-issues in which this Syndicate has been interested of the active progress which has been made, your Directors consider it desirable to again address you in the form of a circular-letter, in order that you may be informed as to the present position of the Syndicate's affairs.

GENERAL POLICY OF COMBINATION.

As you are aware, the Companies forming what is known as the "Venture Group" include, in addition to three purely English Companies, six others, the capital of which has been subscribed half in England and half in the particular country with which each Company is directly associated.

The benefit of this combination of Continental support, far reaching as it is, has fully justified by results the foresight of your Directors, who are responsible for the initiation of this policy; the sub-issues already made having been as largely subscribed abroad as in England, while in the future this support, it is confidently expected, will be greater as our foreign organization is gradually perfected.

As you have been already informed, these several Companies have come to a working arrangement by which all business entered into is for joint account, the younger Syndicates being interested only in such properties as have been acquired since the dates on which they severally went to allotment.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

The Directors of each Company have elected two of their number to join a Committee of Management, which attends to all current business, its decisions being subsequently confirmed at the different Board meetings, and this arrangement is found to work very harmoniously, while materially facilitating the despatch of business.

ENGINEERING STAFF.

It has been decided to carry out the same policy as regards the staff of Engineers on the Fields, and as from the 1st of January, 1896, the salaries of the different experts, and other expenses on the Fields, are divided between the nine Companies. The period of twelve months for which the "Venture" Syndicate had secured the services of Mr. George Seymour as their Engineer has expired, and Mr. Seymour has returned to England on account of his health. A fresh arrangement has, however, now been entered into with Messrs. Bainbridge, Seymour & Co., under which the Group secure the advantage of their services for a fresh period of two years. Mr. Cox, a partner in the firm, has arranged to sail for Western Australia before the end of this month; and Mr. Varden, the present Manager of the Hannan's Brownhill Mine, will join the firm in the course of a few months.

In addition to the Managers and Superintendents appointed to look after the different properties acquired, Mr. J. H. Furman, on behalf of the "Venture" Syndicate, Dr. Albano Brand, and his assistant, Mr. Schoppelt, representing the Anglo-German Company, and Mr. Pridham, are actively engaged on the Fields; and Dr. N. O. Holst, the Swedish Government Geologist, has recently arrived there, accompanied by Mr. Johannsohn, having obtained a year's leave of absence from the Swedish Government in order to inspect and report on behalf of the Anglo-Scandinavian Exploration Company.

It is with deep regret that the Directors have to announce that Mr. Reuben Rickard, of Berkeley, California, who recently went out as the representative of the Anglo-American Company, died suddenly of dysentery when on his way to Yalgoo. The Directors fear that it will be difficult to replace Mr. Rickard, as they are sure that his knowledge and wide experience would have proved of the greatest value to the Group.

Negotiations have been concluded whereby the Group secure the additional services of Mr. William Foggin, to represent the Mines Development Syndicate; M. Chemin, Chief Engineer of the Ponts et Chaussées, Paris, to represent the Anglo-French Company; and Mr. Samuel H. Williams, M.A.I.M.E., to take the place of Mr. Rickard, while negotiations are still in progress for securing the services of an able Belgian Mining Engineer strongly recommended by the Belgian Committee.

The desire of your Directors in appointing so large a staff of Engineers is in the first instance to ensure the prospect of securing only valuable properties, as each Company interested in the acquisition of any Mine has the right to call for inspection

by its own Engineer, and at the same time to give confidence to the Foreign shareholders through their own special representative on the Fields.

FOREIGN COMMITTEES.

Satisfactory progress is being made in the way of strengthening the connexions of the different Companies with the leading financial centres on the Continent. In Berlin we have the powerful support and valuable co-operation of Messrs. E. Spiegel & Co., who act as our Berlin Committee and Agents in Germany. In Paris a similar arrangement is now concluded with The London, Paris, Financial, and Mining Corporation, Limited. In Brussels Messrs. Baelde Frères are acting as our Agents, the Committee there consisting of M. Baelde, Baron Sadoine, and M. Van den Nest. In Stockholm we are well represented by Dr. Sven Carlsen, and Professor Sjogren, and considerable interest is exhibited in financial and scientific circles in Sweden in the operations and progress of the Company which Dr. N. O. Holst represents. In Amsterdam our Committee is composed of Messrs. E. Luden and G. M. de Clercq; and negotiations are now in progress for the appointment of Agents in Vienna on behalf of the Anglo-Austrian Company.

Arrangements have been made whereby your Companies have secured office accommodation in each of the above capitals, where shareholders can obtain as full information regarding the Company in which they are interested as can be obtained in England.

On August 22 last, when circular No. 1 was issued, you were informed that eight properties had been secured. Since that date various other Mines have been acquired, and six sub-companies have been successfully formed and floated to take over and work different Blocks of Leases.

SUB-COMPANIES ISSUED.

The first Company formed was the *Golden Cement Claims, Limited*, issued in August last to acquire the MacManus Leases at White Feather, containing the peculiar "Cement" deposit. This issue was largely oversubscribed. Developments are being carried out on the property in a satisfactory and systematic manner, and no doubt is felt that, as soon as efficient machinery is provided, the high expectations formed regarding the property will be fully realized. A telegram recently received from Dr. Brand gives an average of about 3 oz. per ton, as the result of an experimental test carried out with his trial crushing plant.

The next property to be dealt with was the Great Boulder South Extended Lease, which was taken over by the *Great Boulder Main Reef, Limited*. The Company is well provided with Working Capital, and developments have proved beyond doubt that the property is traversed by the Great Boulder Lode, while the latest official information states that there are 700 tons of ore at grass estimated to contain 5 oz. of gold per ton.

The third operation undertaken was the formation of a Company called the *West Australian Proprietary Cement Leases, Limited*. As soon as your Directors had succeeded in obtaining a good title to the MacManus Leases, our representatives at once acquired all the available ground in that neighbourhood on which the Cement deposit could be traced, with the result that they secured some 200 acres. Their attention was then directed to another block of "Cement" Leases, known as the Kintore Group, situated about 8 miles from the "25-Mile," where a similar deposit occurred. There they acquired over 300 acres of ground.

Having secured these large areas of cement-bearing ground, your Directors approached various other Companies interested in the development of the West Australian Goldfields, with the result that the above-named West Australian Proprietary Cement Leases, Limited, was formed with a nominal Capital of £250,000, to take over the whole of these Cement properties. It was stipulated that 100,000 fully-paid shares should be allotted to the Group in part payment for the properties, and 100,000 shares were privately subscribed; 10,000 additional shares were subsequently issued to provide working capital, while 40,000 shares remain for future issue to provide further funds if required. Under this arrangement this Group retains more than five-eighths interest in the leases, while it has received £75,000 in cash in exchange for the other three-eighths. A considerable proportion of the ground taken over is insufficiently developed to enable any reliable estimate to be formed of its value; but in view of the largeness of the area, and the undoubted value of the "Cement" in places where it has been exposed, the possibilities before the Proprietary Company are very great. It has already disposed of some 54 acres to the

The West Australian "Venture" Syndicate, Lim.—cont.

Sugarloaf "25-Mile" Cement Leases, Limited, for which it received about £82,000 in cash and shares.

The next operation in which the Group was interested was in the flotation of "*Block 50*" *Hampton Plains Estate, Limited*, a block of 8,000 acres taken over from the Hampton Plains Estate, Limited. This issue was also made privately, and resulted in a substantial profit. It is satisfactory to note that rich discoveries have been made on the Block, on which also considerable development work has been carried out, and the Company has every prospect of a successful future.

The Joker (Yalgoo) Gold Mines, Limited, was then formed to take over a property at Yalgoo, which had been obtained on very advantageous terms, and as to the value of which the most confident opinions are expressed. The shares were offered among the members of the "Venture" Mines Development, Anglo-German, Anglo-French, and Anglo-American Companies, to whom the property belonged, and the 85,000 shares offered were considerably over-subscribed for. Owing to the prevailing heat, and the general exodus of miners to the coast for the period during which exemption from labour was granted throughout the Fields, it has been impossible to keep the property fully manned, and development work has been considerably interrupted; but all the reports received have been of the most satisfactory nature, and regular work has now been resumed.

The Mine will be opened up with all possible energy, and if it continues to improve as it is at present doing, it should prove one of the features of the Goldfields.

The last Company which we have formed is the "*90-Mile*" *Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited*, with a capital of £200,000, issued during last month to take over some 76 acres close to the township of Goongarrie. The property is one of great value, and on the centre lease there is erected a 20-Head Stamp Battery. Water has been struck in three of the shafts, and there is ample ore available. Five of the stamps are already at work, and pumps are now being placed in position to enable the others to commence crushing. The results so far shown are very satisfactory, and the Company may be expected to publish regular periodical returns.

PROPERTIES IN HAND.

In addition to the properties thus disposed of, we still retain and are developing the following blocks:—

1. *The Normanby and North Cue*, two leases representing an area of 24 acres in the neighbourhood of Cue, on the Murchison Field.

The Main Shaft is down 97 feet, at which depth a level has been put in 37 feet.

No. 20 Shaft is down 65 feet vertical, and a further 80 feet on the underlie, where water has been struck, making water-level 105 feet in the vertical.

No. 11 Shaft.—A drive has been put in along the course of the reef for a distance of upwards of 50 feet. Good stone is found on both the hanging-wall and foot-wall.

A cable received on the 8th inst., from Mr. Macklin, the Managing-Director in Western Australia, states:—"Large ore body, 50 tons at grass, ore will probably average 2 oz. per ton; reef 4 feet 6 inches in width. The improvement in the Mine is most marked."

2. *240 Acres about 2½ miles South-west of Kalgoorlie*, consisting of "Emulation," and ten other leases extending for nearly two miles along the line on a series of lodes running parallel to and resembling the Boulder line, from which they are distant about two miles. The land is leased all along this line for many miles, but is at present only partially surveyed. Surface indications are favourable, and fair assays have been obtained from the outcrops. A Company is about to be registered to take over these leases, a Working Capital of £25,000 being provided for development purposes.

3. *The Melbourne United*.—An 18-acre property, about one mile from the township of I. O. U. or Boolong.

The main shaft has been sunk to a depth of 90 feet, where a drive has been commenced. The lode is reported to be fully 30 feet thick, about 12 feet being ironstone and the remainder a soft decomposed diorite.

4. *The Arthur Group of Leases*.—Comprising an area of 84 acres, situated about four miles from Bardock.

No. 1 Shaft, driven 25 feet along reef at 50 feet level. Sunk winze 40 feet.

No. 2 Shaft, depth 104 feet 6 inches.

No. 3 Shaft, depth 105 feet; length of drive 14 feet 3 inches.

No. 4 Shaft, depth 45 feet.

Other shafts have been sunk, and some hundreds of feet of costeening done on different parts of the leases. Our Engineers have formed a high opinion of the value of the property, which appears to be traversed by not less than eight reefs, running from North to South, in addition to which a reef of ferruginous quartz crosses the property in an easterly and westerly direction. The "Arthur" Lease, No. 667, is estimated alone to contain over 100,000 tons of ore, exclusive of the other 60 acres.

5. *The Craig-y-Nos Property at Menzies*.—Comprising an area of about 60 acres. Most of the development work at present carried out has been done on the southernmost lease, on which a shaft is being sunk, and has reached a depth of 59 feet. The present developments justify the impression that the property will prove to be one of considerable value.

6. *Mount Sir Samuel*.—A block of 288 acres, situated in the East Murchison Field, about 150 miles north of Menzies. Negotiations are in progress for securing this extensive property jointly by this Group and the West Australian Goldfields, Limited. Numerous Reefs have been proved to traverse these leases, and a number of trial holes have been sunk. Mr. J. H. Furman has examined the property, and reports favourably. He states the country presents a highly mineralized appearance, that there are at least 14 different reefs on the property, 8 of which may be described as main lodes, which will alone give a total length of 10,000 feet. The reefs carry rich gold, and have a very promising appearance. Abundance of good water is obtainable at a depth of 20 feet, and there is, he states, an abundance of timber for fuel and all ordinary purposes.

7. *Lake Darlot*.—This property consists of 96 acres, and our Engineer reports that a reef outcrops boldly, and there is no doubt of its continuity through the entire length of the leases. Samples taken all along the line of outcrop give from 2 to 4 oz. of gold per ton, and the reef will average generally from 2 to 4 feet in width. There is another reef parallel to the above, and a third reef running at right angles across one of the leases, but these at present have not been sufficiently developed to enable a definite opinion to be formed of their value.

8. *The Clio*.—A 24-acre lease, close to the township of Menzies. Very little development work has been done, but there are four reefs coursing through it, three of which are promising both in size and the appearance of their outcrops.

9. *The Croesus Consols and Good Luck Leases*.—Containing 19 acres, in the heart of the Hannan's district. The position of the properties is most favourable, the Croesus Consols adjoining the Victory, or "Block 45," a property owned in Adelaide, and regarded as one of the richest on the Field, on the line of the Victory lode. On the Croesus Consols a prospecting shaft has been sunk to a depth of 86 feet, and a cross-cut driven 26 feet has intersected a lode 10 feet wide averaging about 2 oz. per ton. Another shaft on the Good Luck Lease has reached a depth of 84 feet, and a cross-cut to the East put in a distance of 13 feet.

10. *South-East Brownhill*.—An interest in a lease at Hannan's, taken over with others by a proprietary Company now in course of formation.

11. *Greenhills, South*.—A 10-acre lease adjoining Greeson's Success, and on the same line of reef, about three miles from Coolgardie. We understand a trial crushing of ore from the Greeson's Success lately resulted in a yield of nearly 9 oz.

12. A small interest in a block of 640 acres at *Noonship Deep Rivers*, which is being prospected for coal.

13. *Two claims of 24 acres each*.—In the White Feather district. An option has been obtained over these leases. A lode is traced North and South along the entire length of the property. A shaft has been sunk 35 feet on the lode, and a cross-cut driven 14 feet West and 15 feet East without meeting with either wall. Samples taken give excellent results. A later cable informs us that Dr. Brand "estimates several hundred thousand tons average 1 oz."

14. *Elena and King Solomon Leases*, amounting to 24 acres, adjoining the property of the Mallina Gold Mining Company, situated about 70 miles from Roebourne, near the Pilbarra district. An option has been obtained over this property on favourable terms.

15. *Warparilla Group of Leases*, comprising about 60 acres, situated about two miles North-east of Bardock. This property has only recently been acquired on the advice of Mr. Furman. Our cable advices regarding it are very favourable, and we have every reason to believe it is a very desirable purchase. Negotiations are in progress for disposing of this property on satisfactory terms.

16. *The Maude Lease at Hannan's*.—A half interest has been acquired in an option to purchase this lease, which, from its position, should prove a valuable property.

17. *The Gladstone and White Horse Leases at Hannan's*.—The Companies have also a small interest in these two leases, about which no detailed information has yet come to hand.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

With a view to giving you some idea as to the Financial position of the Group, it may be stated that, while the total called-up Capital of the Nine Companies amounts to some £186,000, their principal assets, taking the shares held at par, and the properties in hand at original cost, represent a value of some £500,000, about one-quarter of which is composed of cash in hand, and bills of sub-companies payable as calls on the shares are made.

The West Australian "Venture" Syndicate, Lim.—cont.

The greater part of these profits belong to the first four Syndicates. The Anglo-American Company had a one-fifth interest in the "Joker" property, and the whole of the Syndicates were interested in the Block-50 deal and the "90-Mile" Proprietary flotation. The later Syndicates were also interested to some extent as Vendors to the West Australian Proprietary Cement Leases, Limited, a few of the leases taken over by that Company having been acquired since their formation.

Of the properties still in hand, the following belong to the "Venture" and Mines Development Syndicates and the Anglo-German and Anglo-French Companies in equal fourths, namely:—

The Normanby and North Cue Leases,
The Melbourne United,
The Arthur Group at Bardock,
The Craig-y-Nos,
Mount Sir Samuel (half interest in option),
240 Acres South-west of Hannan's,
The 96 Acres near Lake Darlot, and
The Clio Lease at Menzies.

These having been acquired before the other Exploration Companies were formed.

The Directors have secured the services of Mr. F. W. Baker and Mr. C. C. Macklin, who have been closely associated with the Group from the time that the "Venture" Syndicate was formed, as Managing Directors alternately in London and Western Australia, as from the 1st January last, and the Directors have every confidence that these appointments will be of great benefit to the Group. Mr. Macklin, who arrived here on leave in December last, has now returned to Perth, and is actively supervising and directing the business in the Colony.

A spacious Building Site, opposite the block reserved for Municipal Buildings in Bayley Street, Coolgardie, has been secured, on which convenient offices will be erected without delay for the accommodation of all the Companies, and arrangements have been made with the London & Continental Investment Corporation of Western Australia, Limited, to lease offices from them in Perth, they having secured an excellent corner block of land in one of the best business positions in that city.

Owing to the unavoidable delay which must occur in obtaining the necessary accounts from Western Australia to enable balance-sheets to be prepared, the Directors hope to be able in the meantime to declare a further interim dividend of a moderate amount, pending the holding of the usual Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Directors,
S. A. BIRD,
Manager.

NORTHERN PACIFIC REORGANISATION.

New York, Philadelphia, Berlin, April 4th, 1896.

Holders of two-thirds in amount of the undermentioned Bonds, Certificates, and Notes, having in person or through their representatives already accepted the Plan and Agreement of Reorganisation dated March 16th, 1896, all holders of outstanding Northern Pacific Railroad Company's

General Second Mortgage Bonds
General Third Mortgage Bonds
Dividend Certificates
5 per cent. Consolidated Mortgage Bonds
Collateral Trust Notes
Preferred Stock
Common Stock
and
North-West Equipment Stock

and Trust Companies' Receipts for the above described Bonds, are hereby notified to deposit their holdings with any one of the undersigned on or before April 23rd, 1896, receiving suitable Certificates of Deposit therefor. Deposits after that date, if accepted at all, will be subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed by the Managers.

Holders of Certificates heretofore issued by the Mercantile Trust Company of New York for Bonds deposited under the Bondholders' Agreement of February 19th, 1894, and not already stamped by us as assenting to the Plan and Agreement of March 16th, 1896, are hereby notified to present their Certificates at one of our offices on or before April 23rd, 1896, in order that we may stamp their approval thereon.

The Managers have the right, which at any time hereafter in their discretion they may exercise, to exclude absolutely from the Plan any holders of such receipts who shall not conform to the requirement to present their receipts for stamping as expressly assenting to the Plan and Agreement.

The cash payments in respect of stock will be payable upon dates hereafter to be announced.

Security holders are invited to obtain from us copies of the Plan and Agreement, as all depositors are bound thereby; many features of much importance to security holders are therein set forth. Any further information connected with the Reorganisation desired by security holders will be furnished on application at any of our offices.

J. P. MORGAN & CO., New York.
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British Holders are requested to apply to the
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THE CLAIMS OF VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.

Present controversy on the claims of Voluntary schools has had, at least, two indisputably good results. The public has clearly seen the extent and value of the Church's past services to elementary education: and the Church has learnt to measure her future task, and to take heart for it.

We write on behalf of a district which has claims upon the nation second to none, and in which the educational work of the Church is beset with such special difficulties that men's hearts may easily fail them in its contemplation.

The Diocese of Rochester contains, besides Chatham, Gravesend, &c., the whole area of South London—many miles of squalid tenements, closely packed with poor and struggling workers, far removed from the few districts in the Diocese which are able to give them help.

What the importance of the school is as a social, civic, and religious influence in such a region needs no telling; and whatever duty the Church has in regard to the schools must be here, at once, most urgent and most difficult.

The record of the past three years is that, under the stimulus of the well-known Circular of the Department, £125,000 has been given and spent by Churchmen in the diocese upon fabrics alone; and what were, in some cases, dingy, ill-ventilated buildings, have been transformed into bright and wholesome schools.

The task thus laid upon the Church was heavy, because she had been at work educating the poor long before any State aid was given—in some cases even in the last century—so the buildings were often antiquated, and that especially in parishes such as those on the river bank, which, because they were the oldest centres of population, had become the poorest.

This heavy work would have been impossible if the Diocesan Board of Education had not been able (besides much indirect aid and encouragement) to make grants which have amounted to £3,583.

Now, as to the future.

We need £1,000 to complete the work of defence and repair, by paying grants, which we have conditionally promised, and relieving managers who have pledged their private resources to architects and builders.

But we would fain also recover lost ground. In the panic after 1870 the Diocese lost about fifty schools (in the last thirteen years she has only lost three). We are inquiring into the condition and present use of these buildings. We hope to recover some of them. It would immensely assist us to do so if a few Churchmen would promise us a definite sum, upon which we could make a proportionate claim for every reopened school.

And then there is new ground. What that means, an hour or so spent in Battersea, Greenwich, Plumstead, and many other districts would quickly and vividly show, by the token of a vast acreage of newly sprung and ever-extending streets. It is not right that, in such neighbourhoods, all the parents should be forced to send their children to the Board schools for lack of Church schools, and it has been proved that many of them prefer Church schools, even where the premises are homely, and they only have tens, where the Board schools have hundreds, of children.

Since 1870, seventy-two new parishes have been formed in the Diocese, but only sixteen have been supplied with Church schools. This is not surprising, seeing that the Church and endowment have had to be provided. Some of the new parishes are now anxious to have schools, and in several cases sites are awaiting us if they can be promptly occupied. But Church schools can only be built in such districts by a large measure of central help and encouragement, and we should be thankful, indeed, if our Diocesan Board had a sum of £5,000, which it could turn to excellent account, by making loans on new school buildings. We ought to have as much more to make grants, given on condition that treble the amount is raised from other sources.

There is no doubt that we ought to ask to be entrusted with £11,000 for the work of the next five years.

Considering the scale and the importance of the work, is it too large a demand, or larger than the attitude which the Church has taken towards the Government and Parliament in the matter of her schools, entitles, or rather bids, us to make?

Are there not those who have made fortunes by the labours of South Londoners, or by the sale of their land to the speculative builder, who will recognize the debt which they owe, and make the Diocesan Board their almoner?

Contributions to this work will be gladly received by the Bishop of Rochester; by the Secretary of the Board, the Rev. A. W. Maplesden, The Church Institute, Upper Tooting; or by the Westminster Branch of the London and County Bank.

EDWARD ROFFEN.
HUYSHÉ SOUTHWARK.
CHARLES BURNEY.
J. ERSKINE CLARKE.
C. E. BROOKE.

Bishop's House, Kennington:
16 March, 1896.

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